# HISTORY OF FOX LAKE TOWNSHIP

## and the Villages of TRIUMPH and MONTEREY

*By Elsye Davey Drewes Larson*

*Publication of*
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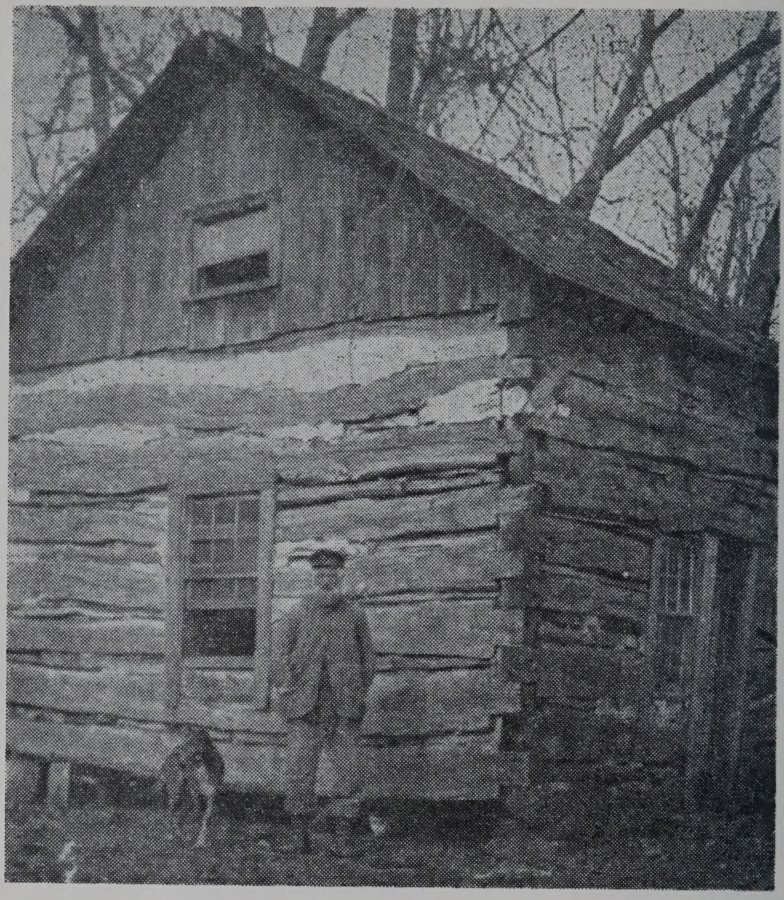

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This little volume is dedicated to
the memory of
**HEINRICH PETER DREWES**
Typical pioneer of Fox Lake Township

and to the memory of
**ELMER RICHARD DREWES**
who shared his life and his memories
of pioneer days with me.

# History of FOX LAKE TOWNSHIP

*By Elsye Davey Drewes Larson*

In June 1854 a company of surveyors was sent out by the United States government to survey the part of the country in which Fox Lake township is now located. They numbered the townships, dividing them into sections and quarter sections to enable the government to throw open the land to settlement under the Preemption Law whereby a settler could, by paying a small fee, preempt a quarter section, live on it six months, receive a patent from the government by paying one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Fox Lake township was designated as Township 103 North, Range 32 West, Minnesota was then a territory. At its organization this was included in Brown County.

In the fall of 1857 Gov. S. Medary appointed the first board of county commissioners to organize the county of Martin which was organized Dec. 16, 1857. They organized the voting precincts on April 24, 1858, the north third of the county being called Waverly. Later it was subdivided and what is now Fox Lake was included in Elm Creek township.

Fox Lake was organized Jan. 18, 1872 after a petition circulated by M. A. Seymour was presented to the board of county commissioners at their regular January meeting. At the request of Mr. Seymour it was named Beucephalia for the celebrated war horse of Alexander the Great. The first town meeting was held at the home of M. A. Seymour on the date of organization. The name was afterward changed to Fox Lake, tradition has it that the name was suggested by Henry Johnson a settler on the north shore of the lake by the same name. Foxes which were plentiful in the county then as now, gave the inspiration for the name.

The stream which traverses the township is located on the old map made by Joseph Nicollet as Chamjaska river, later known as Shinneiska river, further reduced to Chanyaska river. The names in the Sioux language mean "Many or white elms," the stream being quite well thicketed with elm trees. The early settlers abandoned the name Chanyaska for the easier and more common name of Elm Creek by which it is known at this time.

Early settlers were attracted to the streams and lakes for water supply, protection from storms, prairie fires and fuel supply, consequently Fox Lake township with its river and many lakes was among the first townships settled in the county.

The first settlers to locate in Fox Lake township were James, Lewis and Andrew Tweed, two of them married. Two of the brothers located in dugouts on the bank of Elm Creek in Sec. 19 in the spring of 1858. The other located on the north shore of Fox Lake at the same time. The location on the creek is about where the old abandoned buildings of the later Kidd farm are

now situated. Here it was that the first known birth in the township took place, that of Eliza Tweed in 1858.

Because of the Indian scare the families left their homes in 1862 and went to Fairmont where descendants of the Tweed families live. Mr. Budd wrote that in 1864 he and others were in the west part of Martin county and lived in a tent until the tent became uninhabitable on account of wind and snow when they moved into a shanty formerly owned by Andrew Tweed near Fox Lake. These boys were hunting and trapping.

Catching and selling or bartering furs was no doubt part of the livelihood of the Tweeds as it was of most of the population of the county. Mr. William Budd wrote: "We sometimes hear some of the younger settlers what some of the older settlers called "Dudes" speak of the old settlement as the "rat age." It was the age that tried the courage and fortitude of the people of this county. If this county would have had to wait until some of these who speak so slightenly of the old settlers would brave one hundredth part of what the first settlers endured, it would never have been settled."

It was this environment which attracted the next settler in Fox Lake. In 1859 John Allen, a young man, came out from Vermont, a man of good education and culture, having studied medicine in an eastern college. Being of a pioneer nature, Mr. Allen struck into the raw country and built a shack on Elm Creek west of the Tweed settlement in the same section just above where the creek leaves the township. John Allen was closely associated with the settlement of this part of the county.

Roving bands of Indians, a part of the uprising bands at this time, menaced the lives of the settlers. During May, 1862, the Tweed families moved to Fairmont to be near protection of the fort. Mr. James Tweed was out near his brother's claim at Fox Lake when he saw some horsemen coming in the direction of the house. He thought they were Indians and started for Fairmont to give notice and got there before the horsemen. He was afoot. A detachment was sent out to meet the horsemen and it proved to be a company of cavalry out scouting in command of Sergeant Quinn from Fort Ridgeley.

The anxiety increased during the summer until Aug. 18, 1862 when word reached the settlers that the Indians were massacring the whites and destroying property. Some doubted the rumors so John Allen and B. C. Hinkle were sent from this county to investigate. Days passed and no word from them so in their anxiety the settlers packed up as much of their goods as they could and left for Winnebago City for greater protection. Aug. 27th a company of 53 men was formed with John Allen as second lieutenant. The settlers by this time had moved further east to Walnut Lake where they banded with other settlers for mutual protection and were considering leaving the country. The organization of Home Guards quieted matters and the settlers gradually moved back into the county. There were no settlers living in Fox Lake in 1863.

A fort was established on the east end of Creek Lake in 1862. According to a manuscript written by the late Judge Lorin Cray of Mankato, the fort was built of sod and a company of soldiers supplied protection as scouts. They did not stay all the time but

used it as a stopping place in a line of forts reaching to Fort Ridgeley at New Ulm. This was known as Fort Shinneiska or Chanyaska.

The soldiers did a bit of game hunting while established here. In the summer of 1863 about two miles southwest of the fort they sighted buffalo and one was killed by a soldier. It was near night and the animal was too heavy to carry to the fort so they dressed it and left it on the east side of a high hill. The next morning after arranging transportation for the carcass back to camp, they were unable to locate the spot. They met up with John Allen, who was coming back to his cabin, they told him their story, he helped them locate it. They gave him the tongue, a choice part of the animal, and one of the horns. The horn is still in possession of the Allen family. This was the last buffalo shot in the county, the location on Fox Hill or Chanyaska Butte, one of the highest spots in the county, in Section 10.

In 1954 Mr. Walter Carlson, and his troop of Boy Scouts of Triumph erected a marker locating the spot of the last buffalo killed. Henry P. Drewes, who came to Fox Lake in 1869 from Prussia, told of visiting the fort while soldiers were stationed there. A monument commemorating the fort was placed at the roadside directly east of the fort in 1928 by Chanyaska Farm Club South Galena Farm Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution, Fairmont chapter. The information is on a bronze plate attached to a huge boulder brought from the prairie in Section 9.

John Allen had located on Little Twin Lake just over the border in Elm Creek so he was no longer a resident of Fox Lake. Later he bought land in Section 6, where his son, Charles, who married Nina Marks, daughter of the pioneer Harvey Marks of Elm Creek, and his family lived over 50 years until the deaths of Charles and Nina. His son, Vernon, and his large family reside on this farm, while another son, Charles, and his family have their location across the road in Section 7. Mrs. Chas. Allen was one of the founders of the Elm Creek Cemetery Society, its secretary for many years. The Allen family has long been associated with progress in this community. John Allen was a member of the first jury in the county Mrs. Fred Ott and Mrs. Henry Ott, daughters of the John Allens, still reside here.

## THE FIRST MURDER IN THE' COUNTY IN 1864

**This is taken from William Budd's History of Martin County**

"The great supply route from Sioux City and Yankton was through here to Mankato. Hidges & Co., of Sioux City had a large number of ox teams engaged in hauling supplies, as many as five yoke of oxen to a wagon and a train of ten to twelve wagons in a procession. Word was brought to Fairmont that some trappers had found a man who had evidently been murdered near Twin Lakes and there was some suspicion of some of the settlers. The County Commissioners being in session, appointed A. L. Ward coroner, instructed him to impanel a jury and hold an inquest, the following jury was impaneled: James Swearingen, W. W. Carrington, Giles Bartholomew, E. B. Hall, Henry Johnson, Peter Dugaw, who left Fairmont and went to Fox Lake, where they stayed all night in a trapper's shanty about eight by ten in size filled with furs and lived on bread, molasses and coffee. They went to

where the body was found in a slough. The body had evidently been thrown in when there was water as it was partially covered. The dry weather had evaporated the water and the prairie fires burning the grass had left the body exposed so that it was discovered. An account book and book of records were found near the body. There was no money, The record disclosed the fact that his name was Charles White, that he lived in Yankton, Dakota, that he ran a store and was engaged in the transportation business and that he with a train of teams was on his way to Mankato, when near Twin Lakes he left the teams with his horse, he being on horseback, for the purpose of looking out a shorter route and that was the last seen or heard of him by the teamsters.

They went on to Mankato waited a long time for him and on his not arriving they were freighted back by Mankato parties. It was nearly two months after his disappearance before the finding of his body. He had a large amount of money with him, sufficient to pay for the supplies that he was to buy. His horse which was a valuable one was never found nor heard from. There was the mark of a bullet or some other instrument through the side of his head but as the body was badly decayed, it was hard to fully determine the cause of his death. The correspondence with his wife disclosed the fact that he was a man of education and means and engaged in a prosperous business but there appeared to be a lack of interest evidenced by her as neither she nor anyone representing her ever came to make inquiries or requests that the body be sent to Yankton. He was buried near where he was found murdered by some one, but who, was never known. This was the first murder committed in the county. His grave it would be impossible to find, the land now being cultivated and all marks obliterated." In the summer of 1954 Mr. Walter Carlson and a troop of Boy Scouts from TriMont erected a marker near the location of this murder.

## THE HOMESTEADERS

In 1864 the government of the United States opened up this land to homesteads. From then on the township became steadily settled. Records prove that all the homestead land was soon filed upon by soldiers of the Civil War. Since those who filed had to live on the land five years to prove up many of the soldiers did not claim them and they were later open to other filings, The Homestead Act gave credit to a soldier for the years he served in the army thereby shortening the time limit for proving up on his claim.

During the years that the Homestead Act made land available to settlers from 1864 to 1874 the records show that 53 patents were issued in the township with one exception, that of Russell Horton, who had an 80 in Section 1, which evidently was for preempted land, The list of homesteaders is given here with the date the patents were issued and the section in which they were located. Some patents were not recorded for a number of years after the homesteader proved up on his claim. We do not know the exact date of arrival of each homesteader but the dates which are given have been verified by family records,

| Sec. | Name | Patent Issued | Arrival |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Russell Horton | 1864 | ---- |
| 2 | Somers Richardson | 1873 | 1865 |
| 2 | Heinrich P. Drewes | 1880 | 1868 |
| 2 | Herman C. Blanck | 1880 | 1869 |
| 3 | John Hollister | 1874 | ---- |
| 3 | Urial Titus | 1874 | ---- |
| 6 | John Ellis | 1876 | ---- |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Chas. H. Shaler | 1874 | ---- |
| 8 | William Bohannon | 1874 | ---- |
| 10 | John A. Van Wie | 1876 | 1871 |
| 10 | Wilson Pool | 1876 | 1866 |
| 10 | Chris Ludemann | 1880 | 1870 |
| 12 | Adam Schwartz | 1882 | 1871 |
| 12 | Samuel Shaw | 1882 | 1871 |
| 12 | Andrew Penner | 1883 | 1871 |
| 14 | Perry Baxter | 1882 | 1871 |
| 14 | Chas. Lawrence | 1883 | 1871 |
| 18 | John Bassett | 1879 | 1868 |
| 18 | Walter Chatfield | 1868 | 1865 |
| 19 | Isaac Kidd | 1882 | 1865 |
| 20 | Samuel Haskins | 1868 | 1865 |
| 20 | Michael Seymour | 1870 | 1865 |
| 20 | Samuel Haskins | 1885 | 1865 |
| 20 | George Kidd | 1887 | 1868 |
| 21 | William Webster | 1868 | 1865 |
| 22 | George Vinall | 1876 | 1870 |
| 22 | John Rooney | 1876 | 1866 |
| 22 | John McCartin | 1882 | 1871 |
| 22 | Daniel McCartin | 1883 | 1871 |
| 24 | Valentine Wohlhuter | 1878 | 1871 |
| 24 | Simon Schrotberger | 1879 | 1871 |
| 24 | Rudolph Jagodzinske | 1880 | 1871 |
| 26 | Henry Miller | 1883 | 1872 |
| 28 | Chas. Seymour | 1876 | 1865 |
| 28 | Daniel Wood | 1880 | ---- |
| 28 | Benjamin Jenkins | 1879 | 1874 |
| 28 | Harley Seeley | 1875 | ---- |
| 28 | Frank Seeley | 1880 | ---- |
| 30 | Daniel McGowan | 1880 | 1871 |
| 30 | David Soper, tree claim | 1891 | 1866 |
| 31 | Cyrus Weber | 1873 | 1865 |
| 31 | Rollin Rice, tree claim | 1891 | ---- |
| 32 | John Strate | 1871 | 1865 |
| 32 | Sarah Johnson | 1872 | 1866 |
| 32 | David Soper | 1885 | 1866 |
| 33 | J. N. Silverthorn | 1873 | 1865 |
| 33 | Hiram Bradt | 1870 | 1865 |
| 34 | John Richardson | 1884 | ---- |
| 34 | James H. Cooper | 1881 | ---- |
| 34 | J. C. Cooper | 1885 | ---- |
| 34 | Carter Fuller | 1882 | ---- |
| 35 | Dick Hulseman | 1888 | 1872 |

The 1860 census list does not contain a familiar name for Fox Lake, evidently the census taker missed the settlers. The 1865 list contains these names:

TWEED—Lewis, Lobuh, Andrew, Becky, Eliza, Emmy.

SEYMOUR—M. A., May M., Geo. H. E. E., M. H.

KIDD—Isaac, Catherine, George.

TWEED—James.

JOHNSON—Henry.

Many settlers arrived too late to be included in the 1865 census. The 1870 census records:

SHAW — Samuel, 31, Ohio; Josephine, 30, N. Y. Abby, 11, Illi., Louisa, 8, Ill., Edwin 6, Ill., Kittie, 3, Ill.

THROOP—J.H., 41 carpenter, N. Y., Sarah, 40, Pa.; Clarence, 18, Pa.; John, 10, Pa.; Amount of property, $875.00.

ROONEY—John, 54, Ireland; Mary, 44, Ireland; Mary Ann, 17 Canada; Thomas, 15, Canada; Francis, 13, Wisc.; John, 11, Wisc.; Dennis, 9, Pa.; James,6, N. Y.

SILVERTHORN—J. N. 29, Pa; Permelia. 24, N. Y.; Eugene, 5, Wis,; Peter,1, Minn.; Property $1800.

SEYMOUR—Chas., 33, Pa.; Property $2000.

STRATE—John, 39, Ohio; Cyn thia, 24, Ohio; Minnie, 3, Minn. Albert, 1, Minn.; Infant, no name, Minn.

VINALL—Geo, 20. Maine

McGOWAN—David, 33, Ireland; Catherine, 29, Ireland; John, 13 Ireland; Ellen, 10, Minn.; Per cy, 6, Minn.; Daniel, 1, Minn.

WEBER—Cyrus, 36, Canada.

KIDD—Isaac, 32, Ireland; George 13, Iowa.

LOWERY—James, 40, Ireland. blacksmith.

WINSLOW—Henry, 56, Vermont; Melina, 27, N. Y.; George, 10. Minn.

BISHOP—Margaret, 6, Minn.

HASKINS—Samuel, 51, N. Y.; Phebe Ann, 49, N. Y.; Thomas. D. 16, N.Y.; Chas. 16, N.Y.: Sarah, 8, Pa.

ELLIS—John, 46, N. Hamp.; Laura, 40, N. Hamp.

MASON—James, 26, N. Y.; Mar tha, 18, Iowa.

DREWES—Henry H. 23, Prussia; Property, $1005.

BLANCK—Herman, 23, Prussia; property, $985.

RICHARDSON—Somers, D. 37, Vermont; Finetta, 45, N. Y.; Willard, 15, Ill.; Grace, 13, Minn.; Ben, 8, Minn.

The agricultural production record of that year is interesting for comparison; There were 371 acres of improved land, 2050 acres of unimproved land in the hands of owners; (There are 23, 040 acres in a township). There were 28 horses, 34 milk cows, 30 working oxen, 39 other cattle, mostly calves; 16 sheep and 17 swine. The land which had been broken was mostly in wheat and potatoes and a few acres of corn.

In 1875 Isaac Kidd was census enumerator and since the grasshoppers had become less numerous many new settlers had come into the township. Many settlers stayed through the grasshopper devastation, the men in most cases went east to work in harvest fields to earn enough to support their families and hold their homesteads.

Mrs. Kidd, (Catherine) died soon after coming here. As she was not mentioned in the 1870 census, she must have died very previously. Margaret Bishop referred to was a niece who came with them from Ireland. She became Mrs. Helinsky. Her daughter was Agnes, namesake of the second Mrs. Kidd. She died in 1944, wife of Amos Dukes, their home is east of Triumph. Her children are the only descendants of the Kidd family hereabouts. Mrs. Agnes Kidd lived to be of great age, and died in Sherburn a few years ago. Isaac Kidd died in the 1890's.

The earliest transaction in land on record is the giving of a mortgage to Jason C. Easton by Anders Bergland on a tract of 40 acres in the northeast corner of Sec. 20 in 1862. In 1864 Jason C. Easton received title to the tract by sheriff's certificate. In 1870 Mr. Easton gave a warranty deed to H. H. Winslow for this 40 acres. Winslow built a frame house on the north bank of Elm Creek and he also made a ford crossing at this point. This mile across section 20 was sort of a nucleous for early settlers. Mr. Buell Pope, who came here with his parents in 1870, told of a number of sod houses built along here mostly on 40 acre tracts, among them the Zenas Pool family. The Michael Seymours were outstanding in this group and it was in their home that the first post office was established.

The Winnebago-Jackson trail entered the township in section 12 after leaving the Thirlwall place in Fraser township and went thence south westward keeping on the south side of Elm creek, following the bank of the creek where possible. The post office was established at Michael Seymour's home on June 4, 1867 at which time it was designated as Walnut Grove until Feb. 6, 1873 when it was changed to Beucephalia and on July 21, 1873, it was changed to Fox Lake and on April 9, 1874 it was changed back to Walnut Grove. Michael Seymour was postmaster until April 9, 1874 at which time he was accused of trafficing in stamps, and Zenas Pool became postmaster retaining the job until Feb. 4, 1875. Isaac Kidd was postmaster from Sept. 13, 1875 to Feb. 28, 1876 at which time the postoffice was discontinued at the passing of the stage coach line.

It was also in the Seymour home that the first school was held as early as 1866, designated as District number 26, Mrs. Seymour taught the pupils of the settlers at that time. In 1870 a dugout schoolhouse was built into the bank of the creek. It was boarded up in front with a door and one small window. The front and roof were of logs. Rude desks were made of logs, and logs were used for seats. According to the

Teachers Daily Register. Miss Emma A. Griswold was the first teacher and classes were held only in the summer of 1870. These pupils were registered; Geo. Vinall. 21, Clarence Vinall, 15, Wm. Seymour, 9, Chas. Haskins, 15, Geo. Kidd, 13, Sarah Haskins, 9, Delanti Haskins, 17, Abner Seeley, 14, Nelson Seeley, 8, Tom Rooney, 15, Frank Rooney, 13, John Rooney, 10 Mary Rooney, 17 John McGowan, 14, Ella McGowan, 11, Ella Weber, 16, Eugene Silverthorn, 6, Dennis Rooney, 8, Andrew Weber, 21, Maggie Winslow, 6, Geo. Winslow, 14, Katie McCourt, 12, Teresa McCourt, 15, Mary McCourt, 21, Martha McCourt, 19, Jimmie McCourt, 23.

The next year Ella Weber at the age of 17 became the teacher, the register of pupils was the same with the addition of Jonnie Throop, 11, Rosa McGowan, 7, and Almina Baum, 13. Mrs. Mary C. Pope taught from May 6, to July 26, 1872 with new pupils added, Alice Seeley, 6, Hattie Pope, 13, Isbon E. Pope, 10 and Kittie Pope, 6, Maggie Bishop, 8, Myrta Peck, 10, Frank Soper, 15, Geo. Clow, 11, Isabell Simpson taught the summer term of 1873 with these new pupils: John Boody, 14, Minnie Strate, 6, Eddie Seeley, 5, Nancy Richardson, 10, Mary Richardson, 7, and in 1874 Mrs. Chas. Seymour taught Cora Johnson, 8, Albert Strate, 5, Gertie Strate, 4, Peter Silverthorn, 5, Mary Pool, 9, Freddie Pool, 7, Eddie Pool, 5. Lila Oxrieder, 17, Isabell Simpson taught again May 4, 1874 to Sept. 10, 1874. Wages were from $12 to $20 a month and the teacher boarded around.' There was a visitors register also with parents mostly as visitors. W. B. Norman, superintendent of schools, Jackson county and F. W. Morse, superintendent of schools, Martin county, were visitors.

It seems school must have been held during the fall months later as there is mention of a Thanksgiving dance at Sherburn at which many of the pupils and parents were present. Another note: "John, Harley and Frank Seeley assisted with declamations, and anecdotes which enabled us to pass time pleasantly indeed."

Later a building was erected a mile or so south of this and on June 15, 1892, a cyclone which swept over this region struck the school house. Miss Maggie O'Hara was the teacher. Let Matt Posivio who was one of the pupils tell the story: "Miss O'Hara saw the funnel cloud coming and called us inside. When we were sitting at our desks a bolt of lightning struck one side of the building, breaking windows and filling the room with glass and then another bolt struck the other side with more flying glass.

"The last thing I remember was the teacher standing up in front repeating over and over the Lord's Prayer and the kids trying to follow and then came a lifting feeling, and I gripped my desk to brace myself and the next thing we knew we were lying up at Woods on straw strewn on the floor with our mouths filled with dirt. Old Doc. Harnden was looking us over." The injured were Matt Posivio, skull fracture, Louise Posivio, injured back Olive Harvey, injured eye, John Lund, head injuries, Lucy Harvey, broken arm. The schoolhouse was blown to kindling. A new building was erected and school continued here until 1929 when the building was moved one half mile south.

It was in this cyclone that August Filberg who was cultivating corn was lifted with horses and cultivator and set down intact a few corn rows away. The school house in District 22 about four miles east of 26 was struck and a timber from it was blown through the house of John Philipp who lived across the road.

Mr. Philipp went upstairs to close windows and when he opened the downstairs door, he stepped outside as the cyclone had blown away part of the house. A splinter from this timber struck the eye of an infant in a high chair, permanently injuring the eye. This was Edwin Philipp who lives now in Sherburn.

Times were exceptionally bad for the newcomers. First the Indian scare, no money to buy with. long distances to go to buy the necessities, finally long distances to get their precious produce to market. The railroad finally came as far west as Winnebago City. Settlers went to Mankato by ox team for lumber, and to take their few sacks of wheat to have flour ground although there was a mill later at Madelia There were no roads, and when they came to a slough. they had to unload partly and take that across, unload it, and come back in like manner until all was across. The trips took many days.

Then came the grasshopper years which took most of the crops for about four years. Many of the settlers went away never to return. Others stayed because there was no other place for them to go.

Among these earliest settlers was John Strate and his wife, Cynthia, who came out from Indiana in 1866 and took a homestead on the north bank of Fox Lake in section 32. They took an active part in the building of the school, the organization of the township, he was one of the first postmasters, He had six good horses and a yoke of oxen and by 1870 had broken 60 acres of sod and planted it to wheat, the largest area of improved land in the township. He served as a juror in 1868, he was township clerk and in 1873 was elected county commissioner. He was active in distributing supplies to grasshopper stricken communities, In the spring of 1874 he planted wheat, potatoes and garden. The crops looked promising. The summer before he had raised some very fine melons and had taken some of them to Fairmont to serve at a commissioner's meeting. They had been fighting the elements, the sod and grasshoppers for eight years, but had managed to save a part of the $1000 which they brought with them. They had a good farm. The grasshoppers struck again.

Cynthia became homesick so they loaded their family and their possessions into a covered wagon and went back to Indiana intending to come back the next spring. They never returned.

Sheriff's sales were common. Families who had started out and worked doggedly through the desperate times, had to finally leave and go away in discouragement. The Seymours, who had given so much to the new country went back to Wisconsin, the Vinalls went with them. It was also at the Seymour home that religious services were first held, Itinerant ministers stopped at the settlers home and called the settlers together for Sunday school, and preaching services. Mrs. Tom Lawrence recalled how when they met at her parents Haskins, home, they had to move out all their furniture which was poor enough at the best, to make room for the nearby settlers who gathered to hear the word of God, Elder Berry was one of the early ministers and Clark and Graves were traveling evange lists who brought a folding organ with them. Mothers and fathers tried to give to their children the comfort and discipline of religious training from the memory of the days when they had attended services regularly in their churches back east. There were plenty of rowdies who had no respect for these services and would try to break up the meetings.

For the most part the very earliest settlers came from the eastern states by covered wagon. John Throop, a Civil War veteran, came out from Pennsylvania with his family, settled on the north bank of Fox Lake. They did not remain here many years. Others who stayed on a few years were John Ellis, Chas. Shaler, William Bohannon, Walter Chatfield, Zenas and Wilson Pool. Samuel Haskins came from Pennsylvania with his young family, built a house in section 20.

William Webster came in 1865, lived in a dugout in section 21, at a point where traffic crossed the creek to connect up with the Jackson-Winnebago trail. He built a ferry operating it with chains and a windlass charging 50 cents a trip. It was an unprofitable venture and was abandoned in favor of Mr. Winslow's ford. Mr. Webster sold his farm to Samuel Haskins, who lost it after a few years and it went back to Alice Pool Webster. The Haskins family went to Fairmont where descendants still live.

Mrs. Tom Lawrence was the youngest Haskins child. She has told that since most early settlers lived along Elm Creek, they had a path along which they walked from one settlement to the other. About three miles to the west lived George Bickford and his bride, who were good friends. In May 1866, Mrs. Bickford gave birth to the first child. She became ill of infection and Mrs. Haskins and other neighbors walked the path to care for her. There was no professional medical help. The suffering of the mother was terrible and the stench from her body so bad the women could hardly stand to wait on her. She died and her baby also. Neighbors made a pine coffin, gave a precious white bed sheet for a shroud, and the burial was made on a hill to the east of the Bickford home. Mr. Bickford gave an acre of land there for a community cemetery which was the start of Elm Creek Cemetery. Some years ago after the interested women of the community organized the cemetery society, they put up a marker for Julia Bickford and her baby. Mrs. Emma Marks was able to identify her grave.

Without benefit of medical help, disease took toll of many a young child or infant and on nearly every farm there were little graves to tell the story of privation and want. During grasshopper times, Benjamin Jenkins, who homesteaded in Sec. 28, and his brother-in-law went away to find work for the summer. While they were gone, both infants in the family died, and the mothers buried them in graves which they dug themselves near the house. They put up a rude fence of sticks, planted tansy and live-forever, and kept the little plot clean through the years they lived there. This is the story of pioneers and where to this day you find a clump of tansy, live-forever, creeping charley, violets and yellow roses, or even a lilac bush, you may believe that a pioneer family had planted them near a grave of a loved one. These were the plants the brave women brought along from the east in the covered wagon, wrapped in a bit of precious cloth and kept damp throughout the trip, so they might have a bit of the old home to refresh their memories.

Once I came upon a cross of white violets about four feet long on an abandoned farm.

Life was not all sadness and hard work. These people were young and ambitious, full of fun which helped them over the hard spots.

In 1865 J. N. Silverthorn brought his family out from Pennsylvania. His brother-in-law, Cyrus Weber came at the same

time. They took homesteads on the north bank of Fox Lake. They lost no time in building up a community. Cyrus was a bachelor, born in Canada, much interested in the science of nature, a student. He planted a very large orchard of apples. He built a large square house which became a community center. Many a town meeting was held here. He had tucked his violin into the covered wagon, and many a lively dance and party were held in the big house, which was true of other houses. The furniture had to be moved back and the young cut capers. Maybe someone had found room in the covered wagon to tuck in an organ, and there were mouth organs, Jews harps, flutes and horns, song books and hymn books. The old timers were wonderful in declamatory work, they were Bible students.

In 1872 the first fourth of July celebration was held on the bank of Fox Lake on the Johnson farm. The speaker, Mr. Shanks, came out from Fairmont, walking barefoot. He was a fluent speaker and fired the settlers with enthusiasm for the new country. There was a picnic dinner. We were told it was a cold day and although Mr. Shanks came barefoot, he also wore an overcoat.

There was the Irish settlement, those who came directly from the ould sod. John Rooney and his family left Ireland. One child died enroute on the boat and was buried at sea. They reached Canada, lived there a while and gradually worked west, settling in Wisconsin, and finally reached Fox Lake where they homesteaded in 1866, in section 22. Today there is living on this old homestead grandchildren and great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren of John Rooney, the longest continuous residence in the township 89 years; Others of the Rooney family homesteaded in Elm Creek.

Irish neighbors came later, Daniel McCartin and his son, John, and homesteaded in the same section. Daniel's wife and daughters came in 1884. Daniel came in 1871. Ellen, Daniel's daughter, married John Rooney Jr. Tentative plans for organizing the township were made in the Daniel McCartin home. The new house, which Daniel and his son, John built looking forward to the coming of the family from Ireland, was burned in a prairie fire set by Charles Seymour to burn off some grass near his home a mile west. It was unlawful to set a fire without some method of control. Mr. McCartin obtained judgement against Seymour. He then bought a house and had it moved from Twin Lake. Mrs. McCartin and daughter, Katie came from Ireland at this time and joined the men. In 1880 a cyclone demolished some of the McCartin buildings and in 1892 they were again in the path of a cyclone.

The McCartin home was indeed a replica of the old home in Ireland with a low rambling house set in a sea of green grass which sloped to the road. When they became old, Grandpa and Grandma McCartin sat in sunny weather on a bench outside the house, he, cap on head, leaning on his cane, dog at his feet, and she with her white full cap on her head and cape about her shoulders, both of them talking of the "ould" days. His cane was no doubt a shillalah, and the pipe he smoked must have been of clay.

Other Irish neighbors, the Danel McGowans, arrived in 1871 and homesteaded in section 30, their house tucked away in a glen on a bit of 'rollin' sod.

John McCartin went back to Ireland after the death of his parents and brought back a wife, pretty winsome Ellen. They sold the farm in the early 1900s and moved to Welcome. Ellen grew ill and longed for the old home, so

they returned to Ireland where Ellen died. John married again in Ireland and moved back to the United States, this time to settle in Montana, where Katie McCartin and her husband, Peter Errart had settled. There John lived until his death at an advanced age.

Down on Fox Lake the homesteads were taken all along the edge of the lake. Hiram Bradt next to Silverthorns, then John Richardson, J. C. Cooper on the east end, and Carter Fuller in the northeast corner. Bradt served on the county jury in 1868 and '69. He remained on this farm for a number of years. Charles Kraft bought it and sold out in the early 1900's, when they moved to Fairmont, where today his widow Dena Kraft, at the age of 102, years, lives with her son, George.

Sarah Johnson is the only woman listed as a homesteader. She was the wife of Henry Johnson, who suggested the name Fox Lake, for the township. She was a sister of John Richardson who homesteaded further east along the lake in sec. 34. These folks came out from Fairmont where they are listed in the census although they lived on their homesteads part of the time from much earlier than 1872. Nancy and Mary Richardson, 10 and 7 years old, attended school in District 26 in 1873, sisters of Mrs. Johnson.

The Johnson farm was sold in 1886 to Chas Sievert, who came from Illinois with his family. This was a beautiful place with a long sloping lawn reaching to the sandy shores of the lake. It was always a popular spot for fishermen and picnickers. Sieverts opened it to the public and ran a boat rental service for years, until the death of the last Sievert son, Robert. Harold Ficken and his family live there now. Other Sievert sons who were prominent in the community were Ben, Edward and Carl, another son, Fred and a daughter, Louisa, married and moved away.

An island in Fox Lake near the western end has figured prominently in affairs even years before the white men came here. Shore lines have caused many a legal tangle. In this case, Cyrus Weber believed he had title to the island which when the water became low in the lake connected with his land. Rollin Rice, a recluse and hermit, moved onto the island, planted trees and was granted a patent for a tree claim in 1891. Thereafter when Rice moved away, James Axtell and wife moved onto the island, put up buildings and farmed the acreage. A lawsuit was started by Cyrus Weber to get title to the island, which Axtell claimed under riparian rights. The case was tried in the county, went to the state supreme court and finally reached the United States Supreme Court. The following is taken from United States Supreme Court records: FROM Minnesota reports Vol. 110, Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Minnesota Jan. 21 - May 6, 1910. CYRUS WEBER vs. J. A. AXTELL and others Jan. 28, 1910.

Action in the district court for Martin County to quiet plaintiff's title to certain land to recover the possession thereof. The case was tried before Quinn, J., who directed a verdict in favor of the plaintiff. From the judgement entered pursuant to the verdict, defendants, James First and Lotham Harms appealed. Affirmed. Albert R. Allen, for appellants and Knox and Faber for respondent. This case was the only lawsuit to reach the United States Supreme Court from Martin County. It was not tried there, only the question of law was presented and the trial court properly directed a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, Cyrus Weber. There after Axtell moved off and the

land has ever since remained a part of the Weber homestead, which is now owned by Edward Bloomer.

Another lawsuit to determine title to shoreline property on the east end of Fox Lake was started by John Richardson against J. C. Cooper, finally ending with the second generation of appellants when the decision was given to C. L. Blanchar to a small pie-shaped wedge of land. Mr. Blanchar gave the piece of land to the public for a bathing beach and picnic ground. Boy Scouts of Welcome erected a fireplace there and put out picnic tables.

## WHITE SQUAW OF FOX LAKE ISLAND

A legend which has come down through the years is known as "The White Squaw of Fox Lake" Island." This story apparently authentic, was taken from an article written about 30 years ago as a part of a series of little known events in the history of Minnesota.

We write it here verbatim with due acknowledgement of the author: On Christmas night in the year 1845 there was a party being held at Fort Crawford on the Mississippi. The soldiers stationed there with the 5th Infantry regiment were dancing with the belles from the surrounding settlements and farms, and among the young ladies was a young woman who was to become known as the White Squaw of Fox Lake Island.

Ever since 1669 when the French founded for Nicholas, Prairie du Chien could boast of a fort, and although Fort Crawford, built in 1816 on the flat floodlands of the Mississippi had been surpassed by the larger and more prominent Fort Snelling farther up the river, it was yet remembered as the temporary home of Lt. Jefferson Davis, Brevet-Major Stephen Watts Kearney and Colonel Zachary Taylor, who later became president of the United States.

One young private seemed particularly attracted to an 18 year old girl who with her widowed father was attending the party. The girl and her father had come to Brownsville located near the fort on the Mississippi river just a few miles from the Iowa line two years before after the death of her mother in Massachusetts. The attraction of the young girl for the soldier lasted longer than the Christmas party and in spite of the hatred of the father for the soldier, the girl met him constantly in secret and finally they were married in Prairie du Chien in February 1846, by the regimental chaplain who was sworn to secrecy.

Planing to leave the service when his enlistment was up in the spring the young soldier decided to settle on a farm near the Mississippi river and there make a living for himself and his wife. The couple decided that when he left the service then would be the time to tell the girl's father of their marriage.

Meanwhile events in Texas were to change the course of the young girl's life. For the bloodless annexation of Texas to the United States of America the war department felt that General Zachary Taylor who had once been stationed at Fort Crawford and who was now in the Mexican fight, needed more men. Garrisons all over the frontier were called to the Mexican service, and with them the young private. It was in May that the young girl, who was to become a mother, received word of her husband's death through a dispatch from the Mexican border which was printed in an old paper that the steamship brought up the river.

Alone, no one knowing of her secret marriage, expecting no sympathy from her father, she

decided to kill herself, and when her father left the house that day, she ran to a nearby cliff of the river and jumped off. When a Sioux Indian in a canoe on the river rescued her, by signs she made him understand that she did not wish to return to her white acquaintances and so the white girl dropped out of sight for ten years.

From Brownsville in the spring of 1855 a party of war department surveyors set out to locate a stage road into western Minnesota. Taking Indian trails that led from the Mississippi above Brownsville they traveled through Caramona, Austin and Albert Lea, finally coming to Blue Earth which was the end of the stage road. In early fall they were camped in the bottomlands near the junction of the Blue Earth river and Elm Creek in Martin County. As they were at the end of the task the members of the party took time to fish and hunt through the country, going out on even longer trips through the country.

In their journeys they heard repeatedly the story of a white squaw. This white squaw according to the tales lived on an island in Fox Lake which was two days journey from their base camp.

One engineer who was sure the white woman was being held prisoner by the Indians took with him a French-Canadian guide and set out for Fox Lake. Two days later they were on the eastern shore of the lake and in the morning when the mist had risen, they set out in a boat for a heavily wooded island in the middle of the lake.

As they approached a small clearing ,the dogs belonging to the small camp barked excitedly and several Indian women and children around the six tepees gesticulated and shouted. Finally from one tepee came a woman wearing the conventional Sioux woman's costume, bronzed by outdoor living but unmistakably a white woman. She finally spoke to them in English, but poorly, and explained to them that she did not desire to be rescued; that she lived here on the Fox Lake island with the Indians of her own will and that she had in fact by the Sioux rites married the chief of the group who was the brave who had rescued her from the Mississippi several years before .

The story of the white squaw was not discovered until 1889. For years through the 50's and 60's the southern Minnesota stagecoach line had passed not far from the island where the squaw lived without knowing of her presence.

With the coming of the homesteaders to the mouth of Elm Creek where the survey party had been encamped the story was discovered. As trees were chopped to make room for crops, a number of articles fell from a hollow section of the lower trunk of one tree. There was found an old fashioned derringer pistol which was exhibited the same year at Winnebago and about 12 sheets of yellowed paper on which were discernible pencil lines and marks. The manuscript was in obscurity for a while until finally an early member of the English colony near Fairmont succeeded in restoring it in 1899. The twelve sheets of paper related the story of the young surveyor's attempt to rescue from voluntary captivity the white squaw of Fox Lake Island.

Until a few years ago Indian relics showed up on the island.

James Cooper homesteaded on the east end of Fox Lake receiving a patent in 1881 although it is believed by relatives that they came as early as 1870. Here Mr. Cooper built a house and other small buildings and while his

family stayed here, he walked to Jackson the beginning of the week to work in the mill there, and walked back again on Saturday. At one time while they lived here and the women were alone, a prairie fire broke out and destroyed crops as far north as a mile, among them the crops on the Clement Johnson farm. Mr. Johnson brought suit against Mrs. Cooper and her daughter, Sarah, for setting the fire. They were freed of the blame. Sarah Cooper was married to Mr. Cady of Jackson and was the mother of Frank Cady, who for many years was a representative of the Baker Company in this territory.

John Richardson homesteaded in section 34 on the northeast corner of Fox Lake. In 1879 he married Mrs. Emma Blanchar of Fairmont, and she with her two sons, Clarence and Bert, came to live on this homestead which was their home until Mr. and Mrs. Richardson moved to Fairmont in about 1908. Since that time Clarence Blanchar has lived on this place. Mr. Blanchar has probably added more distinction to Fox Lake township than any other person who has lived there. He graduated from High school in Fairmont, working on the farm in between whiles, he married Alice Swanson, daughter of pioneer John Swanson, the man who built so many of Fox Lakes' houses and other buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Blanchar went to Minneapolis where he attended and gra duated from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Blanchar was always out ahead in his thinking, and as a proponent of scientific agriculture, he grew and experimented on his farm with new kinds of grain, particularly oats and corn. He cross-bred various types and produced his own varieties. He was interested in the breeding of hogs and horses. For years he worked away at doing things in a different way to bring an easier way to farming and more satisfying results. He worked for years at getting laws for better seeds. He worked hard to help his neighbors in this way. Way back at the beginning of the century, he was raising and selling seed corn. For years he and his son, Robert, have been partners in the Blanchar Seed Corn Corporation, raising, in particular, Triumph Minhybrids. They have built up a seed corn plant, raising seed on their own farms and on the farms of many neighbors. This business has given work to many, many people over the years.

In the early part of the century while he was getting started at farming, he also taught school. Having been a pupil of his, I can remember how he was different even in his teaching, and even in the playtime at noons and recesses, Mr. Blanchar was out there getting the children to play hard, to be fair, to grow physically and mentally above others, to make us realize our extensive opportunities in the world about us.

Henry Miller and Dick Hulseman came to Fox Lake in 1871. Each took a homestead, the former in section 26 and the latter in section 35. They were hard working German folk joining in whole heartedly to make a success in the new counrty. Mr. Miller served on the school board of the district 22, giving a half acre of land for the school site, with his neighbor, S. Schuelien on the north giving a half acre. After about 25 years the Millers moved to Welcome where they were in the mercantile business for years. District No. 22 schoolhouse was moved to a new site northwest, and the law reads that the old site reverts to the original owners of the land. The Miller farm had changed hands a couple of times but the half acre of land still lies vacant in the middle of

a section. Mrs. Miller, affectionately known as "Grandma" died a year ago at the age of 100 years Mr. and Mrs. Miller were associated with the establishment of the Evangelical Lutheran church now of Welcome; but since there was no town at that time, they established the church and built a combination church and parsonage on land in the extreme south east corner of the township. Later the church was built in the village of Welcome. The Rev. Eisenberg was the first pastor of this church.

Up on the north edge of the township were two homesteaders, John Hollister and Urial Titus who came in 1870. They were a part of the settlement which settled the south part of Galena township, among them the Harvey family, natives of Pennsylvania, who came here from Illinois They sold out in 1877 and moved to Fairmont. Francis Graham bought the place and Mrs. Eliza Jane Graham and her sons lived there for 20 years. She was of hardy Irish stock, driving her own team of oxen long years after others had given up such means of travel.

David Soper was an old settler coming to Manyaska township with his father in 1866, although his residence in Fox Lake did not begin until 1876 when he located a homestead in section 32 and put up buildings, across the road from where John Posivio lives now. This place has been entirely gone for years. In 1881 he took a tree claim in section 30, and after setting out the large grove and putting up buildings, he moved there in 1890. He was married in 1887 to Esther Trumble, daughter of Harvey Trumble, Civil War veteran, who lived in Sherburn. His son, Frank Trumble, also lived in Fox Lake on the Daniel Woods farm, later bought by Peter Silverthorn.

Mr. Soper's son, Rolla, still lives on the old farm. He was married to Louella Ekstrand, who died a few years ago.

Mr. Soper took an active part in township and school affairs serving on the board of District 26 for years. In looking over old records I find that his sons, Fred, George and Rolla, had almost perfect attendance in Dist. 26 for the eight years they attended there. And they had to drive nearly three miles to get there. Mr. Soper was also active in setting up the Adventist church in Sherburn. Services were held in homes until the church was built. He and Mrs. Soper and their family were very sincere in their belief and in their attendance at worship services.

Over on the east edge of the townships a number of young Germans settled. They were Stephen Schuelein, Rudolph Jagodzinski, Simon Schrotberger, Valentine Wohlhuter. The Schuelein and Schrotbergers came in 1870 and put up hay, moving their families here the next year. Rudolph Jagodzinski came in 1870 with the Goetz and Buhrmann and Bursack families who settled in Fraser township. Valentine Wohlhuter brought his sons, Valentine Jr. and Philipp with him, and his wife. These people were strong Lutherans and helped build the Lutheran congregation. and later the Evangelical and Reformed churches in Welcome. They were good farmers and soon built good sets of buildings and became prosperous. Today we have a good sprinkling of their descendants in the township. They set out large groves and orchards. They helped build schools and creameries.

Valentine Wohlhuter, Jr. left the farm and became an agent for land companies working from Chicago who were anxious to get settlers to come here. He was very successful and much of the

country is due to Valentine's foresight in bringing in these sturdy Germans who took hold and lifted the country out of the sloughs into prosperous farm land. Philipp Wohlhuter was agressive in getting the country going in the matter of creameries, elevators, schools and churches.

Perry Baxter, Samuel Shaw, Andrew Penner settled in this neighborhood. The Baxters did not remain long, the Andrew Penner family sold out and moved to Welcome. Charles Lawrence homesteaded in section 14, coming in 1871, remaining on the farm until about 1890.

Somers D. Richardson, a native of Vermont, came out from Illinois in 1866 and homesteaded in section 2, with his wife and three children, Willard, Grace and Ben. In the 1870 census he had 35 acres of improved land, 5 horses, 5 milch cows, 4 working oxen, 7 other cattle, 3 sheep and 3 swine. Mr. Richardson served on the first school board of District 63, as clerk of the township board and as a county juror. He planted a nursery of shade and fruit trees, selling these to the early settlers. Many groves and orchards were started from this nur sery. Later he became associated with C. F. Munger, pioneer nurseryman of Manyaska township. Willard Richardson became a nursery salesman for both nurseries, traveling about the country with horse and buggy making sales. He married Callie Munger and had one son, Frank. Grace became a school teacher and taught in her home district and other schools nearby. In after years Mr. S. D. Richardson and Grace moved to Winnebago, to help his son, Willard, who had established a nursery there. He sold the farm to Percy Fosberry in 1885.

Mr. Fosberry was an unmarried man, one of those immortalized by Maude Lovelace in her book, Gentleman From England. He built rather an unusual house on the place, one with a large hall, and being inclined to carry out the merry sport of riding to the hounds, the place became a mecca for a few years for sportsmen. Another young Englishman, Richard Wells lived with him. One evening while both men were out hunting along Cedar Creek in Galena, Fosberry accidentally shot Wells and killed him. He was buried in the Evangelical Association cemetery on the bank of Elm Creek in Fraser township. This cemetery was abandoned in 1890 and most of the bodies reinterred in the new Evangelical Association cemetery in Fox Lake township. No one claimed the body of Richard Wells, cattle were running over the spot, so a few years ago I organized a tour of historic spots for a history class in TriMont High school In our visit to the cemetery, we picked up the gravestone which had been knocked over and took it to Fairmont and put it in the courthouse.

Mr. Fosberry neglected to pay the taxes so the farm went back to the state and was sold to C. E. Bagley and for years was rented out to a number of tenants, among them the Rippels, Clifford Johnson, Burgess, Janssens, and many others. In about 1936 it was sold to Cornelius Gaalswyk, a Hollander, who has lived on it since, and with native thrift and hard work they have made it one of the finest places in the township. The old Fosberry house still stands but the Gaalswyks have since added three modern houses to the estate which now covers upwards of 500 acres. Many of the Richardson trees have been removed and the ground converted into fertile fields. Until a few years ago the old nursey was still discernable by flowering crabapple trees.

Andrew Penner and his wife,

Betsey, came out from New York in 1871 and homesteaded the sortheast 80 in section 12, with them came their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beech and little daughter, Lena. They remained on the farm until after the death of Mr. Penner, when Mrs. Penner sold the farm to Henry Schulz who had recently come from Illinois in 1890. Mrs. Penner and Lena moved to Welcome.

August Schulze, son of Henry, lived on the farm for many years when he sold it to William Stoehr who lived there until his death a few years ago. The Stoehr family were prominent in affairs of the community. Mr. Stoehr served on the school board of District 63. Mr. August Schulze raised a large family, moved to Welcome, and is now a resident in Fairmont at the age of past 90 years. Henry Schulz bought a farm joining this one over the line in Fraser township where his family lived for many years. His son, William, married Emma Schultz, daughter of John Schultz, bought a farm in Fox Lake in section 15. He sold this and moved to Sherburn, where he still resides. Another son, Herman Schulz, bought a farm in Fox Lake township, in section 23 and resided there until his retirement and death in Welcome where his widow, Elizabeth, still resides. It was she who cared so tenderly for Grandma Henry Miller through the last years of her life. A daughter, Alma, became a school teacher, married William Wohlhuter, raised two fine sons, and is still teaching rural schools near Triumph, where they live. William Wohlhuter, familiarly known as "Bill" has been the county road maintenance man in Fox Lake township since this sort of maintenance was established close to 30 years ago. He is a familiar figure on the county highway with his large motor grader and snow plow. He was the son of George Wohlhuter, who was buttermaker at the Welcome creamery for years, winning distinction as top buttermaker in the state. He and his family moved to a farm in Fox Lake where they lived until their retirement to Welcome. They were unusually active in community affairs. Mrs. Wohlhuter was a champion knitter of garments during the first World War.

Mrs. John Monk, Welcome, was Marie Wohlhuter, daughter, John was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Monk, settlers in Fox Lake for many years who put up the build ings in section 22, the original homestead of D. M. Rooney, now the home of Clarence Andersens.

There was 'claim jumping' in the early days when for some reason the one who filed did not fulfill the agreement, another grabbed the opportunity to take over the claim. Sometimes a 'squater' tried to hold a piece of property claiming it by living on it. The George Jaus family lived in section 12 and by some defection in title were dislodged by the Samuel Shaw's who obtained patent to the farm. They were natives of New York and Ohio, relatives of the Potter family who came about the same time and located a few miles north in Waverly. Mrs. Frank Dorothy who lived until her recent death in Nashville township was a daughter of the Shaws. Fred Jarchow purchased the Shaw farm when he came out from Illinois in about 1890, with other relatives, the Henry Klussmans, who settled just south of this in Fraser where a daughter of the Klussman's, Mrs. George Piltz, now lives. Fred Jarchow became a county commissioner from this district, later moving to Welcome A daughter, Mrs. A. Decker, lives is Welcome, where she has been the city librarian for some years.

Just to the north of this farm

was the homestead of Adam Schwartz who came with his family in a covered wagon from Indiana in 1871. The baby of the family became ill enroute ond died shortly after arrival here. They came just in time to get in to the grasshopper scourge and found it hard to get started in a new land. Mr. Schwartz and some of his children went to Faribault county to find work to support the family while Mrs. Schwartz and the other children stayed on the homestead. Mrs. Nels (Lena Schwartz) Persson, Welcome, has told how she was but ten years old at the time but she went with her father and found a place to help with the work at a farm home near Blue Earth. In spite of hard times the Schwartz family pitched in and helped establish the school, Mr. Schwartz was on the first school board of Dist. 63. They were also active in the work of the Evangelical Association church. Adam and his wife, Rosina, are buried in the church cemetery. A daughter, Mary, was married to Henry Schroeder, a newcomer. They established their home a mile west where they lived for many years with their two daughters, until after the death of Mrs. Schroeder. Miss Louella Schroeder lives in Welcome, where she cares for her aunt, Mrs. Lena Schwartz Persson, who is past 90 years of age. Mrs. Ora Schroeder Lawrence, also lives in Welcome where she has been a correspondent for newspapers for several years. She has one married daughter. Louella and Ora still have possession of the old farm. Sylvan Senne lives there with his family. His father, Albert, lived there before him for many years.

Another Schwartz son, Chris, bought a farm in section 14 which is still owned by his widow and her family, although the Schwartz's themselves moved away from there 50 years or more ago. This farm has been tenanted by the Millers, Timmermans, Fred Kleins, and for more than 30 years by Peter Hartwig and now by his son Peter Jr.

Joe, Herman and George Schwartz were prominent in business in Welcome during their lifetime. Joe and Herman were the village blacksmiths and Joe was a popular member of the village band. George went west to the state of Washington a number of years ago.

We have three homesteaders to account for in the north part of the township. Herman C. Blanck and Heinrich P. Drewes, came out from Prussia, Germany, in 1867 to New York, worked for a time in market gardens in New Jersey, pushed on west and landed in a German settlement near Preston, Minn. They were but 20 years of age and left Germany to escape military induction and to find homes for themselves in a free land. At Preston they heard of homestead land near Jackson In the spring of 1869 they set out to file on homesteads. They had one cow and one horse hitched to a wagon which contained all their earthly possessions, a plow and a few other necessities. They reached Jackson and filed on land in Fox Lake township, or what later became Fox Lake, in section 2. Since they had to live on their land to get a patent, they compromised by putting their dugout house on one side of the road and the barn on the other side. They learned that they would obtain an extra eighty acres by planting trees, so each took the extra eighty. Trees were hard to get and hard to plant in prairie sod. It became an endless task what with trying to break sod for crops and try to build better places to live in, so they wrote to other buddies who came out who had by this time arrived in Chicago. Henry Ewigleben took the 80 from Drewes and the boys were

also very tired of batching, so a brother-in-law of Blanck, Henry Luehr, his wife and baby, came out to keep house for the boys and Mr. Luehr took the extra eighty from Blanck to the south.

Another buddy, Chris Ludeman, a friend in Germany, came in 1870 and took a homestead about a mile south along the creek, where he too. lived in a dugout.

The boys had been of the Lutheran faith in Germany but while living near Preston, they became members of the Evangelical Association, a new church group which had originated in Pennsylvania, a set-off of the Methodist church especially for German speaking people who were isolated by the language barrier. They were enthusiastic about the new church and proceeded at once to contact George Hopp, a friend who had also come from Preston, and who lived about five miles east along the creek. They wrote to the Minnesota conference and in 1870 the conference sent out the Reverend Peter Bott to set up a church in the newterritory. The first meeting place was the Hopp home where the new church was started. In 1871 the Bursack, Goetz and Reetz families came from Wisconsin and settled near the Hopp farm in Fraser, and were added to the membership, and in that year the Adam Schwartz family joined them. In 1872 a log parsonage was built about midway on the bank of the creek from the Hopp and Goetz farms. Meetings were held there or if the audience demanded in the more spacious log house of George Hopp. Later the schoolhouses of the community were used for services. By 1874 there had been 34 conversions and 87 accessions to the church.

In 1890 under the leadership of the Rev. G. Britzius the present Emmanuel church, located 2½ miles northwest of Welcome was built. In 1924 during the pastorate of the Rev. W. W. Schneider, a basement was constructed and an annex built to the church. The church site, an acre, was donated by Rudolph Jagodzinski, who homesteaded across the road and who had come with the Bursack family and whose wife was Pauline Bursack.

John Philipp and his family who came from Illinois in about 1880 also joined the church. His farm was south and east of the church site so he gave an acre half a mile east of the church site for a cemetery. The first cemetery was located near the Hopp farm on the bank of Elm creek. This was abandoned for the new site and many of the bodies re-interred in the new cemetery.

The membership of the Emmanuel Evangelical church has never been much over one hundred at any time being located in a predominantly Lutheran and Evangelical and Reformed church community. The Evangelical conference has united with the United Brethren conference and today the church is known as the Evangelical-United Brethren church. The little white church on the hill has kept pace with the times, watching over the souls of its children, and out of it has come a number of special servants of the Lord, the first was the Rev. S. B. Goetz, having 46 years of preaching service in the Minnesota Conference to his credit. Through its influence Harold Davey went into the service of the American Sunday School Union and then into the Methodist Conference. At present he is the state president of the Gideon association and an active lay leader in the state and surrounding states. His daughters, Beryl, Mrs. Ronald McDonald, and Rebecca Davey are taking training for special service of the Lord. Keith Davey, son of Lewis Davey. is preparing for the ministry of the

Baptist church, having done much evangelistic work while in the military service. Pearl and Faye Philipp, daughters of Edwin Philipp and granddaughters of John Philipp, are doing missionary work for the Assemblies of God church. Grace Davey, sister of Harold, and both children of H. I. Davey, trained for missionary work in the Chicago Evangelistic Institute, working in Chicago in the negro slums. She died at the age of 28 years, shortly after her graduation in 1932.

Others who have grown up in Fox Lake who have gone into special ministry are George Soper, Seventh Day Adventist church, Olin Edwards, son of Albert Edwards, Methodist church, and Ture Steen. son of John Steen, Swedish Lutheran church. There may have been others whom I do not know about and I am sorry if I have missed them.

Houses and other buildings of the earliest settlers were built of logs, hewn out by hand and put together with wooden pegs, clinked in the cracks with mud. There were few trees because prairie fires constantly burned off the new growth. There were a few trees which escaped on line fences which had been planted there or stuck there as only small whips by the surveyors who came before the settlers and other slips were taken from these by the homesteaders to start their groves. Along Elm Creek is favored places and on the banks of some of the lakes there were good stands of walnut, elm and ash trees and some cottonwood and oaks. Drewes and Blanck went with their ox team about five miles southwest to a good stand near the Seymour settlement where they cut down walnut and elm trees, hauling them home to be hewn into logs and boards. Most of this was done in winter when they could use a sled. One nice sunny day in Jan. 1872, they left early and got a load, starting back about two o'clock, following the ice on the creek for good sleighing. About half an hour later clouds covered the sun, the wind went into the northwest and soon they were in the midst of one of the worst blizzards known to this part of the state. The snow was so thick they couldn't see and the oxen were confused, so one of the men went ahead, leading the oxen and pushing a stick ahead of him to tell when they were on the ice. The other man watched the load of logs. The oxen recognized their dugout stable when thty reached it and headed in, load and all.

H. P. Drewes went to Preston in 1875 to bring back his bride, Caroline Kleimenhagen. They came as far as Winnebago on the train, and from there by stage coach to within about two miles and a half from their cabin which distance they walked. Herman Blanck married Ottilla Bursack. The two men remained very close friends until the death of Mr. Blanck in 1924. Death sought and found them on their homesteads after long and fruitful lives. They helped organize school district no. 63. They helped build creameries, they were faithful to the church they started. The two of them were noted for their singing together at church and other meetings. With Ewigleben, Luehr and Ludeman they were known as the "Five German Boys." Luehr bought more land and the Luehr family became closely associated with progress in the new country. The Leuhr brothers, Henry, Herman, George and Gerhart were interested in science and of mechanical bent, they made and invented many interesting and useful things, especiallly machinery. George Blanck was also a genius. Henry Luehr and George Blanck built a machine shop in

Triumph when the town was new. They had the reputation of being able to repair or make anything in the mechanical line. A slogan among customers was: "If Luehr and Blanck can't do it, it can't be done." George Blanck is a natural born artist and has painted some very fine pieces.

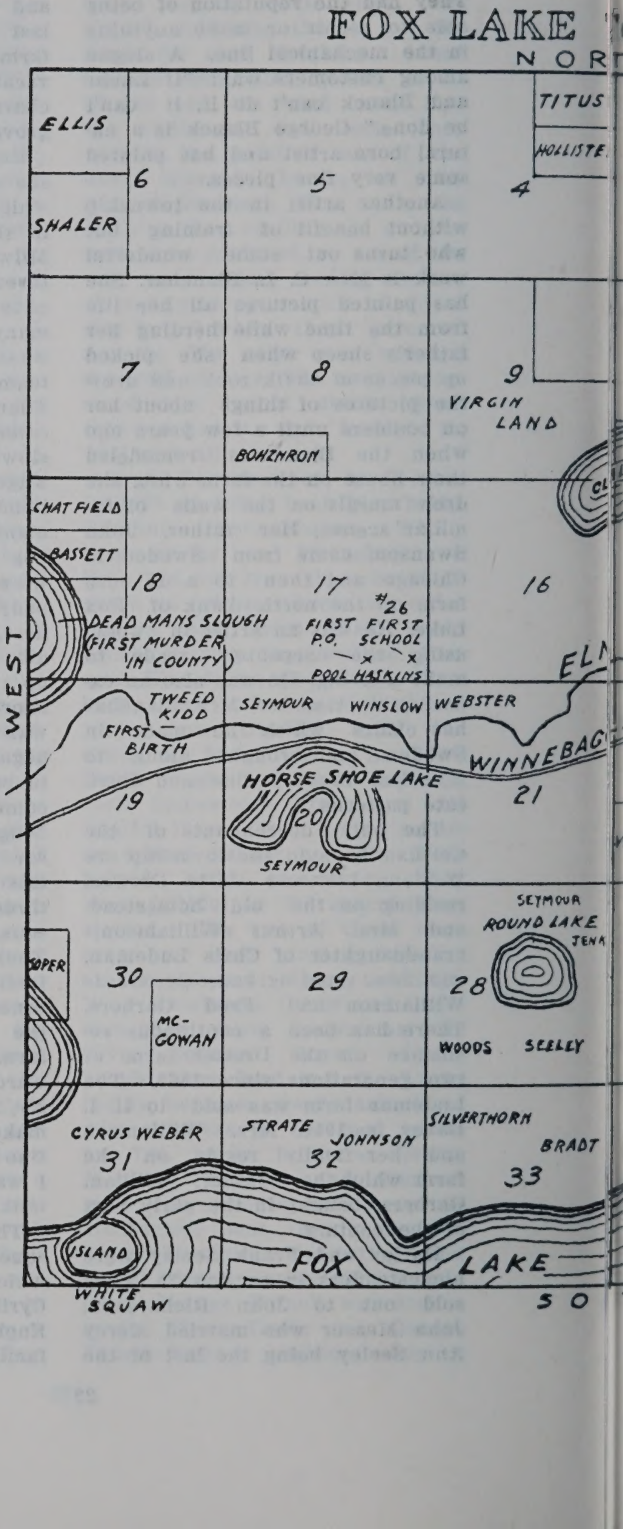
Another artist in the township without benefit of training but who turns out some wonderful work is Mrs. C. L. Blanchar. She has painted pictures all her life from the time while herding her father's sheep when she picked up pieces of chalk rock and drew the pictures of things about her on boulders until a few years ago when the Blanchars remodeled their house on the farm when she drew murals on the walls of familiar scenes. Her father, John Swanson, came from Sweden to Chicago and then to a 15 acre farm on the north bank of Fox Lake. He was an artist in wood, using the carpenter trade to make a living. He was also an expert cabinet maker. Mrs. Blanchar has chairs which he made in Sweden and brought along to America, in very fine and intricate patterns.

The only descendants of the German boys in the township are William, Ida and Marie Drewes, residing on the old homestead, and Mrs. Arthur Williamson, granddaughter of Chris Ludeman, and his great grandsons, Oscar Williamson and Fred Garbers. There has been a continuous residence on the Drewes farm of two generations since 1868. The Ludeman farm was sold to H. I. Davey in 1910. Mrs. Williamson and her family reside on the farm which her father, William Garbers, bought in the early part of the century.

Harley and Frank Seeley were homesteaders in section 28. They sold out to John Richardson, John Measor who married Mercy Ann Seeley being the last of the family to live there. The Bullard and Oulman families were the last families to live on the north farm, the buildings having been vacated since about 1905. Blanchars own the farms but the old groves are still going strong.

Rudolph Jagodzinski was census enumertaor in 1885, the year which marked a turning point in this part of the country. The Milwaukee railroad was built through the country in 1878-9. It gave employment to a great many people as that kind of work was done by hand and with teams of horses. Think of it! Then, too, now settlers could come in by train instead of the slow uncertain way with covered wagons. A great many foreign immigrants came, mostly Germans and Swedes. C. L. Brunskog and Valentine Wohlhuter were agents for the railroad company and did a land office business, which is exactly what they did, for people poured in to buy up railroad and state land. In a short while all the remaining land was snapped up and the country began to boom. John Groth built in section 1, Rudolph Stussi, who came from Switzerland and bought the Fraser farm in Fraser township bought 360 acres in this section and in time built three farmsteads for his three sons, Louis, Rudolph and Frank. They still remain in the Stusse family, Louis's daughter, Mrs. Lorenzen and her family live on the west farm. Frank sold his farm to Myron Johnson where Howard Johnson and his family live. Mr. Stussi Sr., was a cheese maker and became famous for his fine Swiss cheese. Just recently I was shown one of the vats for milk which Mr. Stussi used.

There is another little farm squeezed in here in section 2 which was bought and built up by Cyril Hoste, a Gentleman From England. Later the Schoenhals family lived here. Johann


FOX LAKE
NOR
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6
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HOLLISTE
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9
VIRGIN
LAND
BOHEMRON
CHATFIELD
BASSETT
18
17
16
#26
FIRST FIRST
P.O. SCHOOL
POOL HASKINS
DEAD MANS SLOUGH
(FIRST MURDER
IN COUNTY)
WEST
TWEED
KIDD
FIRST
BIRTH
SEYMOUR
WINSLOW
WEBSTER
WINNEBAG
HORSE SHOE LAKE
19
20
21
SEYMOUR
SEYMOUR
ROUND LAKE
SOPER
30
29
28
MC-
GOWAN
WOODS
SEELEY
CYRUS WEBER
STRATE
JOHNSON
SILVERTHORN
BRADT
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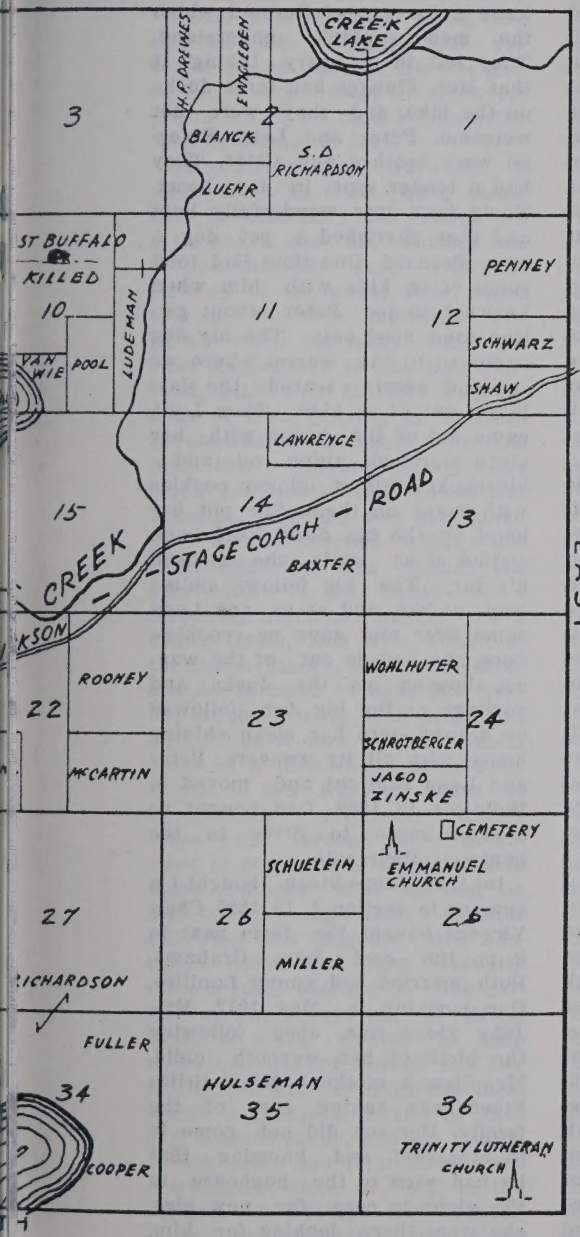
ISLAND
FOX
LAKE
WHITE
SQUAW
50

WNSHIP


CREEK
LAKE
H.P. DARWES
E.W. ILGEN
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BLANCK
S.D. RICHARDSON
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ST BUFFALO
KILLED
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11
12
PENNEY
SCHWARZ
SHAW
VAN WIE
POOL
LUDEMAN
LAWRENCE
15
14
13
ROAD
STAGE COACH
BAXTER
CREEK
EAST
ROONEY
22
23
24
WOHLHUTER
SCHROTBERGER
JAGOD
ZINSKE
McCARTIN
CEMETERY
EMMANUEL
CHURCH
SCHUELEIN
27
26
25
MILLER
RICHARDSON
FULLER
34
HULSEMAN
35
36
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COOPER

Schmidt bought land in section 3 and put up buildings. He was a blacksmith in Welcome and rented the farm to George Reim, who later moved to Oklahoma. Fred Schultz bought the farm in 1920 after his return from service in World War 1, and still lives there. In 1895 Daniel Harris bought a half section west of this for $6476. Frederick Ericson had bought it in 1884 for $1400 as an investment but lost it through default. Harris built the present house on the north quarter section, a large square house with a long addition. Just over the line to the north was a similiar house built at the same time. They were built primarily for hotels for the proposed railroad which had been surveyed through here. The townsite was later made a mile and a half west. The Harris family were instrumental in getting other settlers here, the Pat Lyons family stopped here and went a few miles further north to settle. Hoffman's lived here for a while and the Edlund family. In 1911 Fred Salzman bought it and lived for many years. The farm is owned by his son and daughter, and Salzman's granddaughter, Mrs. Doyle VanderWert live on it. Alfred Schmidt and his father, John, lived here for many years and raised prize-winning Belgian horses.

Peter and Lena Fluegge and the Henry Fluegge's came from Germany in 1885 and built up sertion 16 the Henry Fluegges took the place on the west bank of Clam Lake. Some years later they moved to the Van Wie homestead on the northeast corner of the lake. This was a great country for game hunting. Mrs. Fluegge, Sr. did not learn to speak English. It was about 1903 when my father and some brothers of his who came up from Iowa were out hunting here and walked through the Fluegge yard with their guns on their shoulders. Mrs. Fluegge came to the door of her house with a broom, running toward the men, brandishing the broom in their direction and let loose a barrage of German which the men couldn't understand. They left in a hurry taking it that Mrs. Fluegge had tame ducks on the lake, and they were not welcome. Peter and Lena Fluegge were brother and sister. They had a tender spot in my heart. Their farm was wonderfully kept and they cherished a pet dog, a huge Bernard. One time Dad took some of us kids with him when he went to see Peter about getting some seed oats. The big dog came up to the wagon where we sat and nearly scared the daylights out of us kids. Then Lena came out of the house with her clean starched apron on and a big pocket full of ginger cookies with sugar on them. She put her hand on the big dogs' head and smiled at us while she stroked his fur. The big fellow smiled back at her, and at us, and Lena came over and gave us cookies. Soon she had us out of the wagon, showing us the ducks and goslings as the big dog followed us around, into her clean shining house with all its wonders. Peter and Lena sold out and moved to Welcome in 1909. Dad bought us a small horse to drive to the buggy at their sale.

In 1890 John Steen bought a quarter in section 4. In 1895 Chris Virgens bought the farm next to it on the east from Grahams. Both married had young families. One morning in May 1912, Mrs. John Steen was abed following the birth of her seventh child. Mr. Steen's mother, Mrs. Britta Steen ,was taking care of the family. Her son did not come in to breakfast, and knowing that he had gone to the hoghouse in the night to care for new pigs, she went there looking for him. Think of the terror when she found her son shot to death.

The neighborhood was shocked and numb, and full of fear that the killer might be abroad ready to strike somewhere else. Chris Virgens was arrested, tried and convicted on circumstantial evidence of the murder. He was given life imprisonment in Stillwater prison where he died in the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Thus two women were left to carry on with their young families, to withstand the shock of grief and a dear old mother had to live out her days with the memory of the awful sight which met her on that morning. The trial brought out many other sinister happenings in the neighborhood, attributed to Mr. Virgens, none of them proven, as he made no confession. A short time before this, Blucher Allen, was found dead on the railroad south of Triumph. A tramp was also found dead on the railroad about this time. Dynamite was found the year before in the boiler of a threshing machine engine on a nearby farm, iron was found in the grain stacks. Other mysterious deeds came to light but were not solved, except that after this climax, calm and quiet finally came to a distressed community except in the lives of those so immediately affected. Surely there must forever be a monument of respect and admiration to those mothers who carried on and brought up their families following this tragedy. Mrs. Johanna Steen died very recently after a long, useful life. She carried on the occupation of Britta Steen as a rug weaver to help make a living for herself and her family, besides keeping the farm which is occupied today by her son, August Steen, and his family. A few years ago Mrs. Steen gave a triangular piece of land to the villages of Triumph and Monterey for a roadside park along state highway No. 4, not honoring her own name but that of her husband, and known as the John Steen park. Her children and her friends can surely call her blessed as a saint.

Her children grew into full useful lives, a son, Ture, is a minister of the gospel, Arthur is with the U. S. Navy, Ted died young, Julius was prominent in the work of the dairy associations, Signe taught school until very recently, while rearing her two lovely daughters, Jeanette lives in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Virgens sold the farm to Eric Blomquist, who still lives there. He also bought the former Nelson farm a mile south of him, which is today occupied by his son, Wayne, and family. Charles Blomquist was a pioneer, who came from Sweden and made his home with C. L. Brunskogs on Fox Lake until he bought the farm across the road from the present Eric's farm. He married Emily Holmquist who at one time lived in Fox Lake and were prominent in the early history of the county. Brunskog was a land agent for the railroad companies and did much to settle this part of the county. He was followed on the Fox Lake farm by Nels Holmquist, who had been a contractor in Chicago. He went back to Chicago after a few years but came after his retirement to build on the southeast corner of section 4. He died before he could live on the place which became the property of his foster daughter, Mrs. Philip (Ruth) Roth. The Roths lived there for a number of years selling out later. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Northway owned the farm for a number of years buying another 40 to the north, until in 1947, they moved to Sherburn.

Herman Gottschling came from Germany in about 1885 his parents and brothers and sisters came shortly after, living on one of the Wohlhuter farms. Herman bought the Henry Billion farm in section 27 after renting it from

Valentine Wohlhuter for a while. Henry Billion came from Belgium and married Mary, daughter of John Rooney. They built up the place, later moving to Sioux Falls.

The Gottschlings still own the place, now farmed by Loren Schultz, a grandson. Mrs. Eva (Schuelein) Gottschling moved off the farm only a year ago with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schultz to Welcome. At that time she was the oldest continuous resident of the township, having come with her parents, the Stephan Schuelein's in 1872 at the age of two years.

August Filberg came from Sweden to Chicago and there met with Mr. C. L. Brunskog, who persuaded him to come out here in 1885 where he purchased land in section 29 which with hard work and thrift increased into nearly 1000 acres nearby. The Filberg farm has always been one of the finest in the country. His sweeheart came soon after from Sweden. She had been a lady-in-waiting to the Queen of Sweden. They were hard working people but also brought much of the culture of the old country to a new country besides fostering the new and better things. Mr. Filberg was an extensive cattle feeder. The farm now is in the possession and occupied by the oldest daughter, Mrs. Matt (Rose) Posivio and her husband and family. A few years ago the original Filberg house which had given way in 1898 to a fine big house, was moved to a fresh site and remodeled into a modern house for Robert Posivio and his family, who help carry on extensive farming.

Mr. Filberg bought the farm to the south, the Strate homestead, where had lived successsively the Holmquists, Jake Brols mas, Mahoneys, who moved to Wyoming, and the Johansens. It descended to Mrs. Ralph (Anna Filberg) Parker who still owns it and is now tenanted by Floyd Anderson.

His youngest daughter, Mrs. Henry (Augusta Filberg) Swanson received the quarter section east of the home farm and an 80 south of it with the buildings which was owned formerly and lived upon by the August Fausch family. John Posivio and his family have lived there for years. Just this year Mr. and Mrs. Swanson bought the schoolhouse in District 26 which was situated on their farm, thus ending the life of this rural school district after 88 years of traning the young of the community, hundreds of them, in the elementary years of learning. District 26 joined the consolidation of Sherburn schools. This was one of the finest rural schoolhouses in the county, having kept up with the progress and evolution of education.

Dwindling rural population has finally forced the closing of all schools in the township except that of District No. 63 which still operates on a slim territory. If this were to be written a year later, we could probably tell the story that all rural schools in the township are closed, thus ending the dreams of pioneers who took as a matter of first concern the public education of their children in the establishment of schools within a distance of not over 2½ miles from any home so their children might walk over prairie ways to get there. At one time Fox Lake had five rural schools. We have given the successive moves of District 26. District No. 63 was organized in the house of Adam Schwartz Sept. 1, 1877. Rudolph Jagodzinske was chosen Moderator and Valentine Wohlhuter as Clerk. These were elected officers. Director Samuel Shaw; Treasurer, S. D. Richardson and Clerk, Valentine Wohlhuter. It was voted to hold school three months in winter commenc-

ing Nov. 1, 1877 with teachers wages set at $75, the purchase of fuel at $25 with taxes levied for $25 for general school purposes. It was voted to build the schoolhouse in the southeast corner of section 11. The organization was preceded by meetings as early as April 5, 1877. Bonds to build the schoolhouse were voted at $150, $50 to be paid annually for three years, with interest at the rate of 12%. They had considerable trouble getting the matters settled legally, calling a number of meetings, but school went on regardless with Alice Andrews teaching the first term at $20 a month for three months. The length of terms increased until in 1886 the term was from November to May and the salary increased to $28 a month. These were the teachers during that period Alice Andrews, Grace Richardson, Maggie Krickbaum, Louisa Jepson, Lena Wohlhuter, J. B. Shanks, Matie St. John and Fl L. Clark Rosa Jagodzinske also taught here later. School meetings were held in the home of Adam Schwartz as late as 1882. Directors were named as S. D. Richardson, John Van Wie, Valentine Wohlhuter, Samuel Shaw, Adam Schwartz, Herman Blanck and Henry Drewes.

The schoolhouse was located half a mile north and later one half mile west where it is located today.

A district was set off from this to the south and designated as District 22 with R. Jagodzinske, Valentine Wohlhuter and S. Schuelein as the first board of directors, Ella Sanford was the first teacher. Emma Knutson was one of the teachers.

District 84 was located in section 17 in 1884 with Kittie Pope as the first teacher. The Matthias Pope family came in 1870 and stayed with the M. A. Seymour family until Mr. Pope bought land in section 8 and built up there. Mrs. Pope was an early teacher in District 26. This family was prominent in building the new country. Their son, Silas, was a county commissioner for many years, and prominent in the political life of the county. Buell, a son, helped establish the town of Triumph. He has been of much help to me in getting information of early days. He used to ride the old stagecoach trail with the drivers and he traced the old trail across the county and recalled many an incident of pioneer times. Isben E. Pope was the last of the family to live on the old farm. Kittie became Mrs. Ed Kendall whose husband was the first mail carrier out of Triumph when rural routes were established. He carried mail until he reached retirement age. Another mail carrier was Emory Smock, who carried for Monterey until he reached retirement just a few years ago.

The fifth school was 22B in Fox Lake village, a division of 22 to accommodate pupils who had to come over the 2 mile limit. Sunday school and worship services have long been held in this schoolhouse by the American Sunday School Union and later by the Mennonite church of Jackson county.

We are sorry that space does not permit listing the names of all teachers and pupils. That is a history in itself. We have tried to give an overall picture of rural schools in their early day setup.

The Charles Bloomer family were early settlers of Jay township where they weathered prairie fires and grasshoppers. In 1884 they bought the John McGowan homestead in Fox Lake, which farm is still in the Bloomer family. Ed Bloomer and Mrs. Bloomer lived there until their retirement to Sherburn when their daughter, Mrs. Carl (Isabelle Bloomer) Johansen took over and where they still live. Ed Bloomer was a car-

penter by trade and besides farming put up numbers of buildings in the community. Jack Bloomer, son of Charles, went north and came back with a bride, to live for many, many years in the home community, most of that time on the Cyrus Weber farm, where they took tender care of Mr. Weber in his declining years. Their only daughter, Catherine) taught rural schools for many years. She is the wife of Chester Hartung, living in Ceylon, and an active member of the board of directors of the Martin County Historical Society. She writes many interesting and informative historical articles for newspapers and magazines. Jack died about two years ago, in which same year Ed Bloomer and Mrs. Chas. (Hattie Bloomer) Bassett died, leaving only one living member of the Charles Bloomer family, Elizabeth, widow of Chris Scheurer, now of Minneapolis. In October of 1954, she attended the annual meeting of the county historical society, recalling with clarity and in detail the days of long ago. Mrs. Jack Bloomer lives with her daughter in Ceylon.

The Peter Lund family came in 1885, settled in section 31. Mr. Lund was accidentally killed a few years later, and Mrs. Lund, and her sons, John, Theodore, Edward and Louis, carried on until they were grown when John married and took over the farm while Mrs. Lund and the other boys moved to Sherburn. Mrs. Lund died there a few years ago at past 90 years of age. John and Mrs. Lund and Lennie still live on the old farm. Their daughter, Mrs. Fred (Virginna Lund) Jacobsen, lives in Sherburn. John's son, Lawrence, was one of the three boys, aged about 11 years, who was drowned in Fox Lake in about 1912. Ted and Ed Lund became barbers in Sherburn, Ted later moved to Iowa and Ed still shaves faces and cuts hair in his shop in Dunnell. Louis was in the bulk oil business in Triumph until his death.

Scott Harvey and his family who had settled early in Galena township bought land in section 28 in the '90's, put up a nice set buildings and worked hard to bring up their big family. Mr. Harvey was an old time thresher, using horse power at first, and he also used this power to operate a corn sheller. The Harveys were prominent in the work of the Seventh Adventist church, many services were held in their home. Their son, Clement, became a minister in the church, a missionary to the West Indies, being still in the work of the church in Wisconsin. Lucy Harvey became the wife of Arnold Hanson, they lived for about 40 years on the old Silverthorn homestead on Fox Lake when they sold out to their son, Harold, and moved to Sherburn where they still reside.

Harveys sold out and moved to Wisconsin in 1904, came back several years later but again went back to Wisconsin. The farm here is still in the ownership of the A. L. Ward estate, tenanted over the years by the Dick Wohlenhaus, William and Royal Potts families, which latter family still reside there. Previously the Julius and Tony Julius families lived there.

In 1896 quite a number of families came out from Illinois and took over in section 11 and 13. These were John Schultz, his parents, and his family, John, Cornelius, Chris and Peter Hartwig and Henry Klusendorf and Henry Roforth families. The latter family took land in Galena township except for the son, John, who built up in section one, and later sold to John Hartwig, which farm still is in possession of his family. John Schultz bought and built in section 11. He had a large family and he continued to buy other farms nearby so that

today the Schultz families are well represented in the township. Walter Schultz lives on the old farm, Fred Schultz, two miles north, Will Schultz to the west, Louis Schultz in section 16, Harry Schultz was on the Gottschling farm, a daughter, Mrs. Henry Manzke, and Mr. Manzke bought the former Yost farm in section 23. Elmer Schultz lived in the township for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schultz bought the old J. C. Cooper homestead on the east end of Fox Lake, so all in all the Schultz family have been and are active in the social and political life of the township. The Hartwigs lived on various farms, Peter, Jr. being the only one there at present. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hartwig live in Fairmont and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hartwig in Welcome. The Henry Klusendorfs with their large family rented the section farm in section 13 comprising an entire section. Jacob Klein had bought this farm in earlier years, selling out to move to Welcome where he took over the bank owned at that time by A. L. Ward.

This section farm has long been outstanding because of its vast acreage. The Klusendorf family with their many boys were a sight at work at this big place. It took lots of horses and lots of equipment to operate it. The Klusendorf family grew up and scattered to various places in the county, some went to Canada, all of them were good substantial citizens.

These folk with the Schultz's. Wohlhuters and Hartwigs were organized for fox hunting in the winter time when the field work was over. They and the Ekstrands have made it tough for foxes over a wide area. These folk were always possessors of a large numbers of horses. Since the country has gone mechanical and the horses have largely disappeared, they still keep up their love for horses by being active in saddle clubs.

We agreed to do this job in so many words, and we are approaching the limit. With all due respect to all of you, we must be brief and there are so many of you left to mention, who have each been as important as the other. We have lived together, worked and played together, we have marched endless miles over the prairie farms. There were the Otts, Henry, Charles, Fred, settled on the western line, the Clemmensens next to them, famous for their herds of Jerseys and Guernseys, topping the creamery records, still there to the second and third generations. Herman Bruhn and Squires, Parkers and now Lyle Ficken on the old Seymour place on Horshoe Lake. Johann Runge came in 1885, the fourth generation of Runges' live on the farm, and the Melvin Hartjens on the old Barber farm once owned by Henry Runge. Ekstrands have added so much to our life, the first to live on the Packard place, now owned by Paul Ficken, and Ekstrands took over the new farm built up by Quinn in section 19.

There were Herman Schwagers in section 30, followed by Herbert Langes'. Do you know the Joe Jones's, who lived on the David Soper homestead in section 32, the place now entirely gone? The Klindt family in section 27, whose son, Julius, was a hero of World War I. Another hero of that war came from Fox Lake, John Schroedel, son of Matt Schroedel, who with his large family lived in section 19. Mr. Schroedel disappeared several years ago, simply dropped out of sight and in spite of present day methods of combing the earth, he has not been found nor any trace of him.

Another disapperance was that of Henry Hartjen about 50 years ago. He lived with his brother, Fred, on the old Webster farm on

the creek. They were bachelors. Henry had farming interests in Manyaska township. He left one day to go to his farm and has not been heard from to this day. Fred Hartjen was a familiar figure and a good scout in his day.

John Philipp, his wife and daughter, Ruth, moved to Welcome and his son, Edwin and family lived on the farm until they moved to Sherburn. It is now owned by the Roland Andersons. Hervey Philipp built up on the northeast corner of their farm later moving to the farm of his brother, George, after the latter's death in 1923, where he and his wife, and one remaining son, Roland, live.

Fred Grimsells came from Chicago and built up the largest house in the township in section 35 where the Arnold Meyers live. Henry Meyer and his family came from Wheaton and bought this farm in later years. Two of the Meyer sons live here yet. Henry has the half section or more southeast of his and Ted and his family have the farm in section 23.

The Wohlenhaus and Lightner families came up from Iowa in about 1920, the latter family bought the old Earl farm in section 25, now owned by Arnold Zietz. The Brooks family lived here at one time.

Still you march. Early day settlers were the Wetenkamps in the southeast corner which place has since disappeared. August Wetenkamp built up west of this. There are the Kleins who took the west half of this section, and a quarter to the west which became the homes of Fred Klein, and his sons, George and Charles and later Fred, Jr., who lived north of this where Elmer Haes now lives, built by F. Boutelle, relative of the D. C. Montgomery's.

In 1898 the Chicago and Northwestern railway reached the township and established the village of Fox Lake on the southern boundary just east of the lake. The village mushroomed for a few years. This was a division point, a branch line stopping here coming from Burt, Iowa, the main line going on to Sanborn. The railroad was alive with trains. There was a big roundhouse, coal chute ,a big water tank with water pumped from the lake where there was also a big ice house. A large elevator was built for this was a grain country and wheat came streaming in with long lines of waiting wagons and teams in season. There were livestock pens and loading chutes for the large herds of fattening cattle being sent to the Chicago market.

Main street was built up in true old western style, a hotel on the east end near the depot operated by the most part by the Jacob Tenhoff's and another hotel on the west end on the hill operated by the Axtell family. There were stores, a big livery barn, two saloons, a postoffice. The railway pushed north in 1899 when Triumph was established. Trains made good connections at Fox Lake and fishermen and vacationers by the score came from Iowa points to fish and camp at the Lake. There was a steamboat on the lake with a landing pier at the east end and another at the Sam Loomer farm about midway on the south side of the lake. The Loomers kept a summer hotel.

There was a lively boat business. It was really a bonanza for those who had accomodations for train men, vacationers. This wealth continued until automobiles and good roads took over the business of transportation and the town became almost a ghost town. The little town for a number of years had all the flavor of the old time western. Railroads put on special excursions, such as at county fair time when farmers drove that far, put up

their teams at the livery barn and went to Fairmont for the fair. At that time a farmer who shipped a load of fat stock, hogs, sheep or cattle, to Chicago, he usually accompanied the shipment, and had a holiday in the big city. There were some very large feeders near the village, especially Halkney and Bagley.

Livestock shipments and grain came over this line from the Dakotas headed for Chicago. We lived two miles north right at a crossing and it seemed the trains hardly had time to pass up the line. Great long trainloads of stock and grain came from the north, and as there was an upgrade about here, many times the trains would get stuck and send out a distress signal for another engine from Fox Lake to pull them up the hill. We used to run up to the crossing and watch the cars of squealing pigs and bellowing cattle go by.

We never missed running out to watch the passenger trains go by. We always waved to the trainmen and in time they became familiar to us, and we learned to call them by name. The passenger trains were full of people coming and going. It was May 8, 1905 that my little sister, Helen, 6 years old, was killed by the morning passenger half a mile north of this crossing while she and my brother, Lewis, 8, were crossing the trestle to go fishing. They had not been allowed to go on the tracks but the wind was blowing hard from the north so they decided to go over the bridge to be in shelter while they fished. I had been there earlier and decided it was too windy to fish so started home. Dad was working in the field nearby but not aware that we were near. Lewis ran on his side of the track and jumped to safety when he was clear of the water. Helen was on the other side and became frightened when she saw Lewis jump, and started to follow him when the train struck her.

It was a sad time. She was such a pretty little thing and so full of life. I saw the train stop and knew instantly that something terrible had happened. I ran to the field where Dad was working and told him that Lewis and Helen were on the bridge. The trainmen picked her up and Lewis, too, backed up and stopped where we were and came over to tell us what happened. Then they backed to the crossing and went to the house to get mother. By the time she got to the crossing we were there too. It was the first death I had witnessed. There was an inquest that evening when the train came back. Dr. Janss was the coroner. Lewis and I were witnesses. I remember I got $1.00 for testifying.

We were new in the community having come from Missouri in 1899 and knew very few people. How the word spread so fast, I don't know since there were no telephones; but by night many many people had come to see us to offer help. The railway officials were so good to us, bringing a big sheaf of tulips, the first any of us had ever seen. Someone got word to Sherburn and the undertaker came out, and a minister we had not known. The day of the funeral neighbors were there, the Germans who could not talk English, and the Swedish people who could not talk English, all helping in what ever way they could. I remember John Runge had the coffin in his spring wagon, someone had us in their surrey, as we trudged the miles to Elm Creek cemetery, which at that time was more or less a tangle of dead grass and weeds, through which the new grass was struggling through. What a horror I had that we had to leave our little sister out there in that wilderness so far from home.

There was an exodus in 1899

from our old community in Missouri. Dad and some of the neighbors had come north the year before coming as far as Fox Lake at the end of the line at that time. In August 1899, the Jesse Elliott family came in their covered wagon with their 8 children and rented the farm a mile east of Triumph where Ed Carlson lives. We came in October in a covered wagon, with an extra horse leading behind and our faithful old dog, Carlo. We camped out along the way, cooking over a campfire. There were five of us kids. The weather was nice and I suppose it was fun, I was too little to remember much about it and Mother and I were sick with malaria fever. Elliotts were expecting us and as we crossed the bridge on Elm Creek just south of the Drewes farm, Mr. Elliott and two of the boys came over the hill from the west. Dad kept his old muzzle loader in the top of the wagon and when he spied Jesse and the boys, he reached up, got down the gun and shot a volley into the air. Elliotts returned the salute, and we were all mighty happy to find someone we knew. We moved in with Elliotts, there were 13 children and four grownups, and Andrew Reim, his wife and son, lived in part of the house and two rooms were full of wheat. We got a house for the winter south of Potters, and in March moved to the Alfred Maxim farm in section 28 on the bank of the lake. The next year we moved a half a mile east to the C. N. Edwards farm on which his son, Elbert, lived. The senior Edwards and daughters, Maude, Ethel and Myrtle had moved to Sherburn, and Elbert and Josephine were moving to Wisconsin.

We lived here nine years when Dad bought the Ludeman homestead where he lived until his death in 1948. Forrest Davey and his family still live there.

On that day, Oct. 17, 1899, when we drove along south of the Drewes farm, two little boys sat on the hill watching the movers. They always remembered the incident, at least Elmer did, little dreaming that years later he would marry the little girl who peeked out of the wagon.

In the spring of 1900 two more covered wagons came with the Frank Clark and George Burch families, and the Horace Farrar family came by train on the newly constructed Minneapolis and St. Louis railway to Monterey where Mr. Farrar was section boss on the railroad for a number of years, moving back to Kansas with his family except the oldest girl, Stella, who had married Henry Allen, son of John. She married a Mr. Wolf after Henry's death and just last year she died and is buried in Elm Creek cemetery. Burches returned to Missouri in 1905 and Clark's moved to Michigan, the old home of Mr. Clark, in 1909. Elliott's moved to Colorado and then to Michigan at about the same time the oldest son, Ova, was married to Anna Jones, daughter of pioneer Sam Jones.

The Pergande family moved into section 10 and put up buildings They were followed by a Mr. Larson, who grew weary of life and committed suicide by hanging himself to a fence post with a halter rope. Others on this farm were the Claus Carlson family. who also lived on the farm just northwest of this, and Otto Edman bought the farm in 1914. Their son, Thaxter, died during World War I while in service. David Edman and his family live there now. David is our 'flying farmer'. Henry and Herman Nelson and their mother had the farm just northwest of this for many years. Herman Davey also lived here.

In section 10 on the bank of Clam Lake, there lived a squatter family in early days until the

land was taken as a homestead by John Van Wie, described as a six foot Mohawk Dutchman, a powerful man in strength as evidenced one time when he tipped over in a boat in Twin Lake. He picked up the boat and walked to shore with it. He was a likeable man and was on the first school board of District No. 63. His nephew, Izzie Van Wie, lived with Mr. Van Wie and his wife. Peter Hartwigs lived here for several years followed by Herman Uhrhammer, who bought it in 1911. He sold out to George Grant who lived here for many years. It is now the home of the Howard Stade family.

Melvin Morris bought the Joe Monk farm, and just to the west of this is the old Webster farm tenanted for years by the Fred Schmidt and Ehlers family, the Hovermans, and Ed Attigs, Frank Potts and Walter Krumweide.

In section 10 about on the spot where the last buffalo was shot, Godfrey Rigenhagen moved a house out from Triumph in about 1910. He and Mrs. Rigenhagen (Louisa Stussi) died there a few years later, within a short time apart, from tuberculosis. Their youngest son, then a baby, is Frank Rigenhagen, a prominent resident of Triumph. Others who lived on Fox Hill were Herman Davey, James Christian, Gilbert Brown, Leon Mitchell, and at present the Engel Engelson family.

Melvin Mitchell and his family lived in section 16 where a few years ago he became ill suddenly during a terrific blizzard. His wife made her way through the storm to a neighbors to get help. An ambulance with the help of many men made its way to the Mitchell home and got to the hospital but Melvin died shortly afterward. So blizzards are still on the weather agenda and just as terrifying as ever.

After Monks moved off the McCartin farm to their own farm in section 22 the Timmerman family moved there until after the death of Claus Timmerman in the influenza epidemic in 1918. Herman Hoelmers lived there for a few years when Louis Krusemark moved on and where Mrs. Krusemark and the boys, Constance, David and Reuben, still live.

Charles Nelson and his wife (Mary Gottschling) came from Chicago in the '90's with their family, and lived on the west Wohlhuter farm.. Their daughter, Nellie was married to Will Schuelein, who built up in section 22, just north of the parental Schuelein farm. Mrs. Will Schuelein lives there now, sharing the house with Lowell Wohlhuter and family, who operate the farm. Lowell is the son of Oscar, who bought the Schrotberger homestead across the road. Another Nelson daughter, Bessie, was married to Aaron Jagodzinske, who had built up on the farm in section 23 where George Kellens live. Fred Jagodzinske lived for years on his father's (Rudolph) homestead, moving to Blue Earth. Aaron and his family moved onto the place and after his death, his sons, Harold and Rudolph took over the farming until after war service when the boys married and Rudolph bought a half section in Fraser. Harold married Greta Gaalswyck and resides still on the old homestead. They are very active in 4-H club work. Harold is a member of the newly consolidated school district with the school located in Welcome. Mrs. Aaron Jagodzinske built herself a small modern house on the farm where she lives. Her daughter, Helen, joined the WAC's during World War II and at present has a responsible position in the Pentagon at Washington. The other daughter, Evelyn, taught school for many years and lives with her family in Illinois.

William Storbeck bought the

Fred Klein farm near Welcome many years ago. He and his wife (Leone Fitzsimmons) live their with their son, Eugene and his wife (Arlene Wohlhuter) and their children, sharing the farmstead.

Lewis Davey lived for eleven years on the farm in section 23 where Ted Meyer lives. He was forced to sell during the depression of the 1930's, now lives on a beautiful and productive Wisconsin farm. Their daughter, Leta, is married to Aaron Wohlenhaus, lives in Triumph, a daughter, Nadene, teaches in Triumph. The youngest son, Lowell, has put in several years in the air service of the military. August Daleske also lived on this place until he bought the Edwards farm a mile south. His grandson, Arnold Daleske, lives on the farm.

"Go west, young man", was the cry for many years. Many of our farmers went on - some of them to Wheaton, Minn., among them the Buhrmann family, Mrs. Buhrmann, a daughter of the pioneer Bursacks. While they lived here Mr. Buhrmann followed his trade of butcher, also farming. He did custom butchering for the neighbors. He would arrive early in the morning of the appointed day. and by night, he would have butchered and cut up the meat from a beef and several hogs, grinding the lard and meat for sausage. It was a great day, butchering day, when everybody pitched in and made all manner of sausages, the hams and bacon were put to cure in brine, other parts were fried down and covered with lard, beef was put in a cure to be dried later, and some of it was used for corned beef. There was always plenty of beef and other meats in the homes of these where Peter Buhrmann took charge.

Other families went west to Washington state. Hattie Jagodzinske married Will Helmke and went west. After the death of Mr. Helmke, she married Ernest Hausfeld, a native of Jackson county ,but then in the west. They followed the exodus to Canada and came back again to Welcome ,where their daughter was married to Harold Davey. At present they, Harold Daveys, are living in Welcome. Harold is a building contractor. Mrs. Hausfeld died in northern Minnesota and Ernest went west again.

Others went to Oklahoma, George Schueleins, the Reims, Albert Edwards, Gould Ridgway, C. N. Edwards.

The Henry Martens family moved further north. Tueferts went to Wheaton.

In section 17 we had the G. A. Koester farm, operated in the early part of the century by Mr. Eske. Adam Ringeisen lived there with his large family. He was a lover of nice horses and had many fine looking teams. Knute Olson bought the farm. I believe he was the first one in the community to raise peas for the Fairmont Canning Co.. And other canning crops. Upon the marriage of their son, Robert, to Catherine Gaalswyck, a few years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Olson bought the former John Rosine farm south of Triumph, where they built a new house in which they reside. Knute has been active in the work of PMA for years and has a top notch position in the county office.

Across the road is the Bernhart farm, built by Mr. Bernhart some forty years ago, where they raised their splendid large family. He sold out a few years ago after the death of Mrs. Bernhart to August Schneider.

Another farm just south of this was known as the Malm place which will be written about later. Henry Ripke bought this half section and lived here until his death. Arthur Carlson and his family lived here until he bought

the farm just east of the Triumph village limits.

Mr. and Mrs. Abrahamson who came from Sweden, bought the farm in the southeast corner of this section, and put up buildings in the '90's, retiring to Triumph in later years. Amos Dukes and his family live there.

Wilbur Sherman bought the Mathias Pope farm, lived there until his death, at which time he was a member of the town board. Mrs. Sherman lives on the farm with her daughter. Ruby, Mrs. Kolden and her family. A daughter, Clara, is the wife of Vernon Allen, and Ida is the wife of Walter Carlson, at present the secretary of the county Historical Society.

The Posivio family were prominent settlers in the township. Matt Posivio has been a colorful figure for many years. He became an engineer on the M & St. L. railroad. He left railroading and married Rose Filberg when they took over the old August Filberg farm where Matt and his family have carried on some mighty fine farming. Matt's daughter, Phyllis, became a secretary for Senator Lundeen. She married Gordon Spielman in the east, and a few years ago they returned and bought the Triumph-Monterey Progress. Phyllis helps edit the paper and has won distinction with her columns and her stories and her pictures. Under the heading: "Matt sez." Matt also gives his views on farming and the politics of the day. John Posivio married Leona Klindt and they have lived for years on the farm a mile east of Matt's while raising their large family. Their son. Herbert, in the air service of the United States, disappeared while on duty in Europe, supposedly shot down while in flight over enemy territory.

Chris Bast bought the old Seymour farm in section 20, raised a fine family. George, a son, married to Rose Monk, bought a farm a mile north and a few years ago, after the death of his father, he bought the old home place. A daughter, Ella, married Will McClellan, they took over the home Tom McLellan farm in section 18 when the Tom Mc Lellan's moved to Sherburn. Their only daughter joined the military service in World War 2 and has stayed in government service with her husband. At present they are situated in Casablanca, French Moroco, North Africa.

Another Fox Laker, Lt. Col. Kenneth Davey, who remained in the Air Service of the United States, is also situated in Rabat, French Morocco, North Africa, with his family of his wife and three daughters.

David, son of Tom McLellan, married Lena Schroedel, lived in Fox Lake until the death of Mrs. McLellan. Two of their daughters are married to sons of Maurice Clemmenson and operate the big Clemmenson farm.

John Groth who built in section 1, in the '90's sold that and built in section 5 just east of Triumph, where Arthur Carlson now lives. Carl R. Carlson built the first set of buildings just south of Triumph which was bought later by Henry Bernhart. A Detert family also lived there. Magnus Olson had a blacksmith shop and a house in section 5 which place was a forerunner of the city of Triumph. It is said that it was in his home that the tentative plans were made to build the town, which was suggested to be called "Lumholdt."

The house is still there, known over the years as the J. M. Johnson home. Mrs. Johnson was a daughter of Mr. Olson.

Gust Edberg built in section 6, selling out about 20 years ago to Kahl's and followed by the present owner, Wilbert Anderson.

In the southwest corner of this section James Graham had an 80 on which he put up buildings. It

was later sold to William Anderson, which family still owns it.

W. Thrieboldt had a quarter in the southeast corner of section 7. Conrad Koch is believed to have put up the buildings. Lars Rosendahl, carpenter, who built many of the structures on the farms about Tri-Mont, built the barn on this place in 1901 for Koch. George Bast is the present owner and occupant.

Paul Sjunnenson bought a quarter in section 8. He was killed by lightning in 1902. He came out from Michigan with his family. His son, Nels Sieverson, took over the farm and lived there for several years until after the death of his wife when he moved with his several small children to St. Peter, Minn. Nels was married to a sister of Nels and Swen Persson. Nels lived on farms in the township, one place was the Chas. Lawrence farm. His sister, who later became Mrs. Sieverson, kept house for him. Nels married Lena Schwartz and they lived in Welcome, where he became the first rural mail carrier out of Welcome, which job he kept until his death. He was beloved by all who knew him, a man of high Christian principles.

Mrs. John Steen was a daughter of Paul Sjunneson. This name, like many another was changed after his immigration from Sweden to Sieverson. Elsie and Vivian lost their husbands in a double drowning accident. Vivian (Mrs. Carlson and her two children came back here where she taught school and later was married to Irvin Sinn, on whose farm they live. Emma Sieverson became Mrs. Lynn Allen.

A. Eske lived on the G. A. Koester farm at one time three fourths of a section in 17. Eske lived on the north farm, and a man named Almquist on the south farm. Eske was a large operator and sold out in 1906 or thereabouts.

August Swanson bought 80 acres in section 16 in 1897 and sold out about 20 years later. Others who lived here were Joe Hanson, Franz Berg, Lyle Sherman, Wayne Barber and others. The farm on which Almquist lived is now owned by Fred Ebeling

The farm in the southwest quarter of section 17 is in the name of E. Burkross in 1885, and we have not been able to trace the beginning of the settlement. Charles Berg, now of Dunnell, lived and farmed here in 1892, shortly after he came from Sweden. The Posivio family lived here for many years. For the past more than 30 years it has been the home of the Jerome Minick family.

Herman Blivernicht and his wife's uncle Oswald Toefflinger, came from Illinois in the '90's where the former bought land in section 16 and put up the present set of buildings now owned by Marland Stusse. Louis Weseman and his family lived here for years.

Oswald Toefflinger bought in section 29, put up the present buildings. John Rushy lives on the place at present. Others who lived here were August Prust and Glen Folz and others whom we do not recall.

The Dalle family lived in section 9 in 1900 and later. The Drinkwitz family moved to Wheaton from the farm on the west bank of Clam Lake in about 1900 when the Frank Clark family moved there.

Two of the newer farms are those of Vance and Ralph Randall in sections 16 and 17. Their father, Clifford Randall, bought the property, which was later divided, with a farm built up for Ralph on the east eighty.

Other families who lived in Fox Lake were Schuyler and John Henderson and Walter Henderson. Schuyler was married to Nettie Measor of the pioneer See-

ley family. Walter married Elsie Card, whose parents operated a hotel in Fox Lake at one time.

The Ed Robinsons and Frank Crawford and the Tony Winks lived at various times on the Charles Kraft farm on the north bank of Fox Lake. George Blomquists, John Ruschs lived on the Herman Blanck farm which is now owned by Ray Kelly and operated by Raymond Garbers.

Albert Ask lives on and owns the former William McLellan farm since the McLellans moved to Fairmont.

Isaac Stauffer bought the William Cooper farm on the east end of Fox Lake. Their son is Eugene Stauffer, Chicago and Northwestern depot agent in Welcome. Henry Saxen who came from Germany in the '90's bought the old Mittendorf farm. This was sold to Fred Anderson and is now operated by Lee Van Riper.

In 1900 Parmeters lived on the farm just east of this, which was then bought by Henry Runge. Others who lived here were William Niemiers, Joe Koffarnus and Louis Hartjens.

Merwyn Moore and his family live on the former Dick Hulseman farm. Winifred Brockman, married a daughter of Fred Andersen. They bought the property east of the village of Fox Lake and put up a set of buildings. He also moved the sorghum press and other equipment for making sorghum here from his father's farm in Rolling Green and carried out the family occupation of making sorghum until the equipment and the building were destroyed in a storm.

George Spiegler has acreage in the west part of the village of Fox Lake where for years he has operated a sawmill.

At one time George Wolford and his family lived in section 28. He also carried on his trade of drilling wells along with farming. Fred Werners also lived on this farm and Sam Werners on the farm to the west.

Ted Kittlesons live on the old Peter Fluegge farm. He is a member of "Saddle Pals" who broadcast over KSUM.

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Before bringing this history to a close, we want to bring it up to date as much as possible. Our people over the years have been organized into farm clubs, and groups where things pertaining to the progress and preservations of our way of life and our natural resources have been duly taken care of.

Fox Lake on the south border of the township is now the dividing line between Manyaska and Fox Lake townships. With the increase of population it is only natural that the fish and game population should decrease. With the tramping of many feet, our lake shores are defaced with the carelessness of mankind an added factor. So the generations have seen with alarm, a country lose its charm, its fertility.

And so in the hearts of a people who want to keep our lakes, our streams, our acres as a heritage for our children yet unborn, we hail those who have taken definite steps to keep the land.

In about 1917 or before this a group of men, mostly from the village of Sherburn which is near the lake, organized the Game and Fish League with Charles Grill, president; J. C. Salisbury, Vice president; Leo Howard, Secretary and A. G. T. Broun, treasurer. Their aim was to keep the adjacent lakes stocked with fish, to replenish and protect the dwindling game supply, and in general to preserve the land.

As the years rolled by, the name was changed to the Fox Lake Conservation Club. Present officers are Art Isler, president; Dr. M. O. Brewster, vice president Vernie Morgan, secretary and John Koch, treasurer. Directors

are from the surrounding towns, Sherburn, Fairmont, Triumph, Alpha, Monterey and Dunnell. Membership at present is over 1000. While they are concentrated over all areas, their work has been more or less concentrated on Fox Lake and its shores, because it is the largest, 4 miles long and over one-half mile wide, and it is deep. It has always been famous for its good fishing. On the south side a park was established in about 1918 by a private group. A largeball field with a grand stand was built. A golf course laid out and a club house built. This was kept in private hands and Kenneth Nelson bought a part of it and built a dance pavilion. There has been for years a swimming beach.

In 1950 the Conservation Club bought 16½ acres on the southeast corner of the lake at a price of $150 per acre for a park. It was named Everett Park in honor of Everett Whitehead, who owned the land and who had been very much interested in the work of the club. In a few years since they have owned the spot, they have erected a shelter house, put in electricity, fireplaces, picnic tables, planted hundreds of trees, and opened it to the public. There is also a good bathing beach here.

They also leased a strip of land on the northwest corner of the lake from Edward Bloomer so that their members can get into the lake to go fishing. This piece is for members only, and it does give them access to the lake. Almost each day of the year the shores and the lake are dotted with fishermen. In the winter in proper season the lake is literally covered with fish houses.

They put on a hobby show each year which has grown to such proportions that it can hardly be handled with present available space; but the club will scratch their heads and keep up with the demand. Their famous hot beef sandwiches are passed out to all comers at this time.

Ed Bloomer opened Fox Island to the public at one time; but typical of the general public, they defaced it with debris and under such behavior, he was forced to close it, to preserve the trees and the lake shore.

In about 1950 Interstate Power Company started the erection of a four million dollar utility plant on the south shore of the lake. They also bought Clay Island, a bit of a spot isolated most of the time by high water. It seems they needed this particular place for their operations but they have put in a road and have given the use of it to the Boy Scouts.

The Conservation group have taken an active interest also in game hunting, particularly the pheasants.

## ADDENDA AND SO LONG

This must come to a close. In the short space alotted I have tried to tell of the people who have lived in this six mile square of land for the past 100 years. It is impossible to do them justice. Mistakes have been made. I ask your tolerance and give you full steam ahead to write another history and do it better, and without mistakes. I have spent most of the years of my life gathering this information, living with pioneers, listening to their stories of frontier life.

Now I, too, am going down the western slope of life toward the sunset, and have, at last, gotten this thing off my chest, for it has been a load which I felt must be lifted somehow some day.

In those one hundred years we have marched along pushing the wheels of progress. In the morn-

ing we have faced the sunrise watching the fascinating scene as the colors of light reach fingers to heaven's blue sky and send their shadows across the world as if writing the autograph of God. We have stood on Fox Lake's hills and looked out over its rolling terrain, tracing out the course of the creeks, which in season flood the lowlands and in season are almost dry. We stand in awe at the spectacle of hundreds of pelicans or white geese as they sit on the placid blue waters of Hartjen Lake. We have watched big Fox Lake as mauve mist covers it and also when waves dashed high against its rocky shores. We have watched the fishing boats and the pleasure boats on the many lakes and listened to the echoes of familiar voices as they came over the waters on a still day.

We have gone fishing in boats, in fish houses, with rod and reel, with spear and with bent pin and a willow pole. Usually we got fish plenty of them. We have caught them when they 'ran' in the spring when plum trees in bloom looked like the foam along the shore.

We have watched flocks of geese and ducks as they winged their flight northward and when they came back south again: and we have seen them nest in the sloughs and raise their young unafraid. We have also dressed hundreds of game birds and many more fish.

We have traded the tallow candle successively for the kerosene lamp and watched the electric lights glitter in every farmstead and in every house.

We have watched for the first lavender crocus in the spring and the last blue gentian in the fall on "the prairie" in section 9 today probably the largest patch of virgin sod in the county.

We have watched the old trails disappear to be replaced by crude mud roads, then by graveled roads and again by hard surface roads which beckon to all the world to come a traveling.

We have seen men work out their poll tax by working on the roads when there was no money to the day when men pay thousands of dollars just for a few feet of roadway.

We have watched sloughs and swamps disappear before the tiler first by hand, then by machine as ditches were dug to drain off the water so more precious land could be cropped to feed the world. We dare not forget Keck's Swamp Angels, those dozens of ox teams which pulled plows through swamps to make open ditches to drain off the water.

We remember the school picnics, and school programs, spell downs, declamations, play-days, Grange meetings, Farm Bureaus, 4H clubs band practices, graduations.

We recall the amateur theatricals of the 1917's when we put them on in hay lofts and in town halls. Remember "Misery Moon" the Hoodooed Coon and Elmer Schultz and Amanda Hartwig in the leading roles? Mayme Klusendorf Scheff is as pretty today as she was back there when she played the part of a little girl with long curls.

Remember the barn dances, the skating parties, skiing, taffy pulls, fun days. Just visiting with neighbors, walking along the railroad tracks looking for wild asparagus.

Gathering wild plums and grapes, getting apples and raising apples, making cider in the old orchard. Stopping on the way home to eat chokecherries, black haws, thorn apples.

Yeast making, soap making, lye making, bread baked by the thousands of loaves with 'spook yeast' or salt rising bread. And the churning of butter with big plops of it on fresh baked bread or apple

kuchen, sally lunn or hot cross buns.

And there were movers wagons coming along the dusty roads, stopping in to get refreshed, many times the visits turned out to be several days while the men swapped tales and the women washed, baked and visited. Then there were the gypsy caravans in covered wagons. We were afraid of them and ran swiftly to the house and Mother locked the door if the last child made it in time. If not, then she had to practically push out the gypsy women who came in showing their fancy work which they offered to sell for something to eat. They could not be trusted.

We loved the ragman and the tin peddlers with their carts full of shiny tin pans, and trinkets, red handkerchiefs. We crowded close to ogle his supplies and listen while he haggled with the elders over the price of rags and feathers which he took in trade for a frying pan or a tin milk pan.

There were Syrian clothing peddlers who usually walked through the country with packs of cloth carried on their backs. They flashed bright smiles with their white teeth gleaming in their dark faces and talked brokenly but with such guile that nearly always they left behind a bright piece of cloth in exchange for our hard earned cash.

Moses Zeef was a Jewish peddler who drove a white horse to a buggy in which he kept his woolen clothing or cloth in large valises. He came at regular intervals and settlers waited for him to buy the things they needed in his line because they knew they would get stuff at honest prices. He kept the Jewish Sabbath stopping at sundown on Friday night and staying until Sunday at certain places. We have today a woolen shawl which the Drewes' bought from "Old Moses."

There were horse traders who traveled about trying to swap horses. Bill Higgins was one of these. We had a string halted horse, Prince, who was a faithful old plug, taking us back and forth to school. In winter when he saw a patch of ice ahead he would start slipping and bring that one halted leg way up over his back. Poor old thing! He was getting pretty bad one summer and one day when us kids were gone, Dad traded him to Bill for a mangy motheaten plug that was worse than Prince, mainly because Dad couldn't bear to kill old Prince. When we saw what had happened we cried until Dad took back his prize and brought back old Prince who stayed with us until he died a natural death.

Abner Seeley was a faithful familiar figure. He was not blessed with formal education but he was proud and determined to earn his own living in his own way. He devised a special kind of chute for dehorning cows and traveled about the countryside doing that kind of work. He charged five cents a horn and had a bookkeeping system of his own. Some folk would cheat him but if he discovered it, he was through with them. When he became old and ill, it seemed he would not have enough savings to pay his expenses and burial expenses, too. He felt terrible about this and kindly friends who knew it, paid the expense, so Abner would not be beholden to anyone for his keep.

And dear old Grandpa King who had lost an arm in an accident. He had a long white beard and thick white hair, bright blue eyes behind his square steel rimmed glasses. He drove Molly and Fanny to a covered wagon selling patent medicines. He always stopped at our place for dinner. We were fascinated with his combination fork and knife which he carried with him.

There were the celebrations of the Deutsche Verein on the east end of the lake in Cooper's grove. We went once. Everybody was having a great old time but we couldn't understand them as it was strictly a German party.

No more is heard in the land of the bang, bang, bang of ears of corn hitting the bang boards in the early frosty morning since the husking peg has been traded for the mechanical husker.

And social welfare and the army have taken the tramp from the railroads. They were almost as thick as flies in the summer time. They camped in the corner of our grove which came up to the railroad track. They came to the house and asked for handouts Mother would not feed them unless they worked for it by chopping wood, splitting logs, cleaning out the barn or shocking grain. One day during harvest 14 men had come to the door asking for food. The 15th was a swarthy Irishman. She never turned any away but this time, she was getting a little weary and running out of jobs. She hesitated when he asked for food and said: "You are the 15th man I have fed today." He replied with a roguish grin. "Ye are doing dom well, madam."

We have seen the prairie fire with its terror brought under control, and a more terrible menace, automobile accidents, threaten daily.

We have seen land to be taken for the asking and land sold for $500 an acre.

We have seen the pioneer chop a hole in the sod to plant "five in a hill, one for the cutworm, one for the crow, one for frost and two to grow," to an increase of up to over 100 bushels of corn to the acre. Waving fields of wheat have gone and replaced by oats, and then by corn, alfalfa and canning crops and sugar beets.

The pioneer bowed the back and bent the head to cut hay and twist it for fuel and combed the grasslands for "buffalo chips" and we have seen his ancestors cut down the trees he so carefully tended to make way for more land on which to raise more corn to feed more hogs, so he might press a button to turn on the fire for heat and for cooking.

The horse has given way to the tractor and the automobile.

We have heen the blizzard of 1872 and the blizzard of 1940. And the flood of June 7, 1953.

But the sky is as blue as then, the rose scents the evening air with the same fragrance, the sun shines as hot, the wind blows over the prairie with the same force, an errant breeze fans the fevered cheek, love and hate remain the same, and kindness and ill will.

We have seen our boys and girls march away to war, whenever the call came to protect our freedom. How we would like to put down the roll here but they are recorded in the War Book, and those who have not returned from battle are recorded in the book of memory.

The same sunsets glow in the west as they mix and match colors to the grand display of the day.

We would like to add a bit in respect to the village of Fox Lake. It has always been an unincorporated village. In its heyday when the train service was booming and thriving, William Wolford was the track supervisor or "section boss" from Fox Lake to Triumph, and I believe also to Welcome. The section boss was provided with a house which was built right next to the railroad tracks, and painted dark red as was the depot and all other railroad buildings. Mr. Wolford and his crew were conscientious and thorough as they plyed their hand cars up and down the tracks, keeping everything in perfect order for the heavy traffic which

passed over the rails. Another boss we recall was Tommy Chantos. Mrs. Henry Meyer, who has lived east of Fox Lake on their farm for many years was a daughter of William Wolford and Mrs. Wolford at an advanced age lives in Welcome with her daughter, Viola.

It was natural that since the railroad business was the towns mainstay, some of its young men should join the railroad. Two of these we recall were William Ten hoff and Henry Wolford, starting on the section and working their way up.

Another name associated with Fox Lake was that of Valentine Ershfeld who operated the large and flourishing livery barn. Alexander Whaley and Ernest Madison were station agents at various times.

Fox Lake had a bank at one time which flourished for a season. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spielman operated a general store for years selling out to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Wendt.

Mrs. Jacob Tenhoff was as typical of Fox Lake as any person we could name. She kept a hotel and cooked endless meals and lodged railroad men, making it home for them on this end of the run. She kept groceries and was postmistress for several years. Besides raising a large family at the same time. When the hotel burned to the ground, she immediately moved into a vacant house and kept things going for her "boys". One of her sons, Albert, had been blind since early childhood because of spinal meningitis. In her motherly concern for him, she saw to it that he received a good education and that he learned the profession of piano tuning, which profession he kept until his death a few years ago. Albert Tenhoff was one of the world's finest persons, surmounting his handicap, and giving to the world so much more than it gave in return. Another son was Charles, who attended the State University and became a pharmacist. The youngest son, Arthur, farms near Dunnell. The two daughters, Clara and Rena, married and raised their families. Both are now dead. Mrs. Tenhoff, after the death of her husband, moved to the Cooper house at the end of the lake where her brother also lived with her until her death.

Another prominent resident was Orin Kruse, son of Henry Kruse, who built up a farm in section 26 which grove and buildings were vacated years ago, although a few trees still stand. Orin was as far as we knew the only veteran of the Spanish-American war of 1898 from this township. At the present time a Fox Lake reared woman Mrs. A. R. Decker, (Louise Jarchow) Welcome, is president of the woman's auxiliary of the veteran's organization of the war of 1898. Her husband is president of the organization for this area.

Today Fox Lake is a hamlet of about 25 families, some of them retired and others earning their living in various occupations. George Nelson is operator of the gasoline station. Other names familiar are Geo. Lohse, Hartmann, Joe Tenhoff, Harry Jose, Mike Artner, Frieda Cruise, Joe Bleakley, Sam and Lydia Bray.

Just a little more about section 13, Fox Lake's largest farm, an entire section, 640 acres, Jacob V. Klein came from Illinois in 1888 and bought acreage in this section, put up a nice set of buildings. He kept adding to the acreage until he finally owned the entire section. He moved from the farm in 1894 and engaged in the stock buying business with Geo. Goetz in Welcome. Later he entered the Welcome National Bank The farm was rented to the Henry Klusendorfs who remained there for many years. And Al-

bert Wohlenhaus farmed it for many years until he, too, went into the mercantile business in Welcome.

In about 1952 Edwin Hilgendorf a prosperous farmer in Galena township bought this section. With his family of six boys and a girl, they undertook the big job of operating this large acreage. The land for the most part is low and in wet times, rather swampy. There has been a large slough or small lake, depending on the rainfall on the north end, and numerous sloughs throughout the section. Mr. Hilgendorf has added considerably to the extensive drainage system on the farm until the past year, almost the entire section was in crop.

Also Mr. Hilgendorf put up two glass silos, they tore down the old barn and built feeding barns, and lastly they tore down the former house and have built a large ranch style house to replace it, thus changing the old buildings completely. He is an extensive and successful cattle feeder.

Other prominent farmers in the township which we have inadvertently overlooked are the Irvin Sennes, Harvey Kuehls and Harvey Armbrusts. They are all young and up and coming citizens joining in the march forward. We have one citizen here who is representative of the type of pioneer who earned their living by trapping in the numerous places which abound in the township and this is Herman Hoverman. He has kept pace with the change in fur bearing animals and just this winter trapped a large number of racoons, which animal is new to this section but which has become numerous the past several years. Another new fur bearing animal which has moved into our streams is the beaver. The old timers trapped mostly muskrats which animal through much trapping and a disease which struck them about 20 years ago, has almost disappeared. Foxes we have always had with us, and a few wolves. Another animal which has moved in the past ten years is the deer, some of them becoming tame enough to come to the barnyards to eat with the cattle of the farm.

Duck and goose hunting, the wild variety is as good today as it ever was, except that many of the sloughs have ben drained so nesting is not as familiar as it was, but during the migration period ducks, geese and pelicans come in by the thousands and feed in the cornfields.

And so Fox Lake, we have told you most of what we know.

"You can't holler down my rain barrel,
You can't climb my apple tree,
You can't slide down my cellar door,
Because you won't be good to me."

SO LONG

To all those people who have helped to make this history readable, we want to say a big thanks. You have been practically the entire residence of the township.

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# History of the Village of Triumph

In 1899 continued building of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad from Fox Lake north to Butterfield. The right of way agent in selecting townsites stopped at the home of E. Howard Fitz, who had resided on the east bank of Cedar Lake for 20 years, showing him a map of the proposed townsite about two and a half miles northwest of the present town. Mr. Fitz through his knowledge of the lay of the land persuaded him that the best site was just east of his place on a township line of Galena and Fox Lake townships.

The owners of the proposed site wanted $500 more than the agent was authorized to spend. A number of farmers met at the home of C. A. Johnson at which time John Steen was elected secretary-treasurer of the group, the matter was laid before them, and in a few minutes the necessary $500 was raised. On March 18, 1899, the Western Townsite Co. laid out the present boundaries of the town, six blocks were platted into lots at that time.

The Townsite Company considered a petition to call the new town Lamholt, which was rejected for the name, Triumph perpetuating the pioneer post office located in Section 1, Elm Creek Township, 1½ miles southwest. The Triumph post office and the building, were moved in to a location in the new townsite with Mrs. Anna Ekstadt, as the first postmistress. Mr. John Tillman moved his store and stock of goods to the new site and the creamery whose manager was John Steen was moved in.

The name "Triumph" came into the history of the county through its selection by the Post Office Department for an office established on the S. M. Wetzel farm on the north end of Twin Lake, in Section 12, Elm Creek township, in 1875, through a petition by John Bassett, George Bennett, George Ott, John Allen and others. The name, Wetzel, was suggested, but the Department chose Triumph, and that was that. B. H. Wetzel was the first postmaster until years later when it was moved to the L. O. Tillman farm a mile and a half northwest and John Tillman was appointed postmaster until it was moved to the new townsite.

The Congregational church society erected a building in section 2, Elm Creek, in 1890, which was sold to the Methodist conference a short time later. The building was moved into the new town site where it remained until it was torn down in 1954 to make way for a new church building.

Thus the old town has entirely disappeared but the new town on the railroad boomed and continued to grow, and was incorporated August 15, 1901, by a petition signed by C. E. Sinn, Frank Schwalen, A. G. Mathewson, M. Clemmenson, Hass, Neimeyer, Popes and others. The first Council meeting of the new village was held in October, 1901 and R. Muske and Hans Jacobsen were the first mayor and clerk. F. M. Ripley was the first editor of the paper, Triumph Progress.

Today the town contains about 22 platted blocks, the growth has been steady, accentuated by the work of organized effort in a bustling farming community. One

of these clubs organized in 1912 was the Ladies Civic group, the Embroidery Club, with these charter members: Mrs. G. Umhoefer, Mrs. L. A. O. Stockdill, Mrs. James Meehan, Mrs. Buel Pope, Mrs. A. E. Anderson, Mrs. Alva Fitzsimmons, Mrs. Henry Herman, Mrs. George Blanck, Mrs. Chester Pope, Mrs. F. S. Schwalen and Mrs. Merrick. These ladies and successors were responsible for the two parks in the village. Today they have their own city water and sewer system, a local electric power plant, an active Commercial Club. The village has a fine new school system shared with its sister village, Monterey, and the latest addition, a 20 bed, completely modern hospital. Population about 650.

# History of the Village of Monterey

In 1900 the Minneapolis and Saint Louis Railroad Company built a branch line from Storm Lake, Iowa to New Ulm. This forced them to cross the line built the year before by the Chicago Northwestern railroad which according to their survey would have been within the present village limits of Triumph where they had tentatively selected a townsite, and another tentative site a mile and a half south. The right of way agent came to E. Howard Fitz and suggested that he help them locate a site as he had located the Triumph site. At the suggestion of Mr. Fitz, they al so located on the township line a half mile west of Triumph. Thus was born the twin villages of Martin County. Land was bought of C. A. Johnson who supplemented his loss through the generosity of Mr. Fitz, who allowed him to replace his holdings through land owned by Mr. Fitz. The town was named by the Jenkins Townsite Company and a postoffice established with Mr. Fitz the first postmaster and agent for the townsite company. The first building was built in C. A. Johnson's cornfield by E. W. Dushinske and Mr. Wheeler for a hardware store the present Rippel building.

Within a few years business places sprang up rapidly, Charles Erickson, blacksmith, Arndt, Catlin, Fox, McKeeby, Lindblom, Brown, Gamble, Babcock, Wartman, Sammons, Metcalf, Coffee, Thompson, Johnson, Swanson, Westerdahl, Anderson Carlson.

The first residence was the present Otto Edman home. On the present roster of commercial business men, C. A. Laase and P. C. Reding are credited with being the longest period of time in continuous active business, since 1914.

The first automobile in town was owned by Harry Stiffler, in the early 1900's. In 1938 Monterey had the only officially recognized airport in Martin County and received widespread publicity for that distinction during the observance of National Air Mail Week that year, by the cachet on all outgoing letters from the local postoffice that week.

At the present time, 1955, a move is under way to incorporate the two villages as one town, after a period of over 50 years of friendly competition, a union which no doubt, E. Howard Fitz, envisioned at the time of his suggestion that the two villages be built side by side. Population at present about 300.